THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 14,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN *is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.*

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 *Wall Street, or No.* 823 *Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.*

A WORD TO THE AID SOCIETIES.

The appeal made to the public, some weeks ago, for blackberries and blackberry cordial, has been answered in a way that leaves nothing to be desired. Rivers of blackberry juice have flowed in upon the Commission from all parts of the country, and a more grateful or appropriate or useful flood, it would be hard to think of. Our friends, we trust, however, will bear with us patiently, when we say that we are still not satisfied; that though we have had blackberries enough, we are now craving for other fruit, or in other words that we now want peaches. The season of blackberries is past, and the season of peaches is at its height, and we therefore beg our contributors to turn their attention to the latter. They have never been cheaper or more plentiful, and there has never been a year when they could be turned to better account. The army is still in as much want of fruit as ever. It is leading the same life, eating the same food, and incurring the same risks. But we shall save our friends some trouble, and, at present prices of sugar, a great deal of expense, by saying that we do not want *canned* peaches, and we cannot do better than give the reason why, in the words of Dr. Woodward, our Sanitary Inspector at Nashville:

You inquire what is my opinion as to the value of canned fruits for hospital purposes. I beg leave to state, so far as my own experience goes, they are, as a class, *the most* useless supplies that can be distributed, and, in many cases, absolutely injurious. As a rule, the peaches, plums, cherries, &c., put up for the market, undergo a process of decomposition, which, though not absolutely fermentative, renders them productive of derangements of the stomach and bowels, inducing diarrhea and chol-

eraic forms of disease. Extensive inquiries among surgeons of great experience in hospitals show that they have no confidence in them as a recuperative diet, and that their use depraves the appetite, and destroys the relish for more simple fare.

It may seem "a hard saying," but I am convinced that the demand for them is kept up by the patriotic and well meaning ladies, who, in the fullness of their benevolence, wish to give to the sick in hospitals all the comforts of home, but who lack that knowledge of physiological and pathological principles, which would make them safe judges of what is beneficial or injurious.

Fresh fruits, in their season, I regard as highly salutary, as are also well dried fruits, which have been cured without any decomposition taking place. Well made jellies are valuable, not as food, but drink, to mix with water for the sick. Tomatoes, well canned, are very valuable in winter to ward off scorbutic disease, and to keep up the healthy functions of the liver, but I believe it would be far better if canned fruits were entirely prohibited.

Testimony of the same kind will be found in the letter of Lieut. Colonel Summers, on page 682.

What we want is dried peaches. Those who have quantities of the fruit which they are willing to contribute, can, no doubt, readily find willing hands to "store and dry" all they can spare.

The fruit need not be preserved with sugar; in fact, no money need be expended in its preparation. Let each individual peach be carefully divided, and the "stone" or "pit" taken out. Then the two halves should be laid on clean boards, (the top of a shed, or lean-to, sloping to the South is a capital place,) and permitted to dry thoroughly in the sun, if possible. Or, in wet weather, they may be dried in slightly heated ovens, or by the side of the fireplace, or stove. In whatever manner the drying is accomplished, it should be thoroughly done—the juices should be completely dried, as a very slight degree of moisture engenders mould, and attracts insects.

Too many dried peaches cannot be sent to the army. They are most valuable in the hospitals and for convalescents, as a curative agent, and are a great treat for well men, when there is a surplus sufficient to allow them a share.

Send on the dried peaches. The children will be active and useful agents in preparing them, and the older folks, whose stronger hands are needed in the harvest-field, need give but little of their time to the task. Now is the time to do a great and good work. The peach crop has seldom been so abundant, the surplus seldom so great. Now, as a work of humanity, charity and patriotism, let this surplus be so prepared and sent as that the soldiers in the field shall have their full share.

Send parcels and packages to the nearest branch of the Sanitary Commission, or its Central Office, No. 823 Broadway, New York.

THE INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONGRESS AT GENEVA.

A correspondent of the *New York Evening Post* transmits the following very interesting account of the labors of the International Sanitary Conference, which met at Geneva, (Switzerland,) on the 8th of August. Our readers are already familiar with the movement which led to this Conference:

—

The organization and complete success of the United States Sanitary Commission have awakened throughout Europe a warm and intelligent sympathy, which is likely to result in immense benefit to humanity at large. Stimulated by the example thus thrown out in benevolent challenge to the world, Mr. Henry Dunant, of Geneva, whose admirable *brochure* on the Italian war, "*Un Souvenir de Solferino*," has made his name famous in the annals of philanthropy, started as early as 1862 a movement looking to the development of similar sanitary agencies in Europe. Under his lead an association was formed under the title of "Society of Public Usefulness of Geneva."

PRELIMINARY MEETING.

A circular was issued on the first of September, 1863, by this society, addressed to the several Governments of Europe and to leading philanthropists, inviting their cooperation at an International Conference or Convention, and particularly requesting the representation of the different Governments by delegates, to convene at Geneva, on the 26th of October, of the same year. This preliminary convention was well attended, nearly all the principal European

countries being ably represented. The two points which then came specially under discussion were, first: the expediency of organizing a system of volunteer sanitary service, analogous with that in operation in the United States; and, second: the propriety of securing, by mutual treaty between the several Governments, the declaring as neutrals, and the consequent military protection in time of war, of all persons and things employed for the succor of the wounded.

After a most interesting session, in which the discussions were marked by great good feeling and harmony, the suggestions of the Committee of the Geneva Society were cordially adopted. On the fourth day of the session a series of resolutions were unanimously adopted, embodying distinctly the idea of the immediate formation of Sanitary Relief Associations, and detailing the proposed plan of their organization and cooperation under the direction of the Central Committee at Geneva. The Convention decided to append further to these resolutions a series of "recommendations," especially intended to awaken a concordant action on the part of the Government of all nations.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

These resolutions were couched in the following terms:

1. Let Governments grant their highest protection to the Committees of Relief which shall be formed, and facilitate as much as possible the fulfilment of their mission.

2. Let neutrality be proclaimed in time of war, by belligerent nations, for the ambulances and the hospitals, and let it be equally admitted in the most complete manner for the *personnel* of the sanitary staff, for the volunteer aids, for the country people who go to assist the wounded, and for the wounded themselves.

3. Let a uniform distinctive badge be recognized for the Sanitary Corps of all armies; or at least for all the persons of the same army who are attached to such service. Let a uniform flag be also adopted for ambulances and hospitals in all countries.

The action of the Conference excited a profound interest throughout Europe. The high character and eminent services of many who took part in its proceedings were a sufficient guaranty of the complete practicability of the plans and recommendations suggested. A warm response to the appeal thus made was given by many Governments.

The Emperor of France wrote a letter to Mr. Dunant, expressing his "hearty approval of the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Conference."

The Emperor of Russia was no less prompt in testifying his approval, giving immediate authorization to the Grand Duke Constantine to assume the direction of an Auxiliary Relief Association, under the special patronage of the Emperor and Empress.

From Prussia, Saxony, Wurtemburg, Denmark, Spain, and several other Governments, similar evidences of interest were communicated to the Committee at Geneva, and in a very brief period after the final adjournment of the Conference, Societies and Committees for Sanitary Relief were put in practical operation.

The Swiss Federal Council, wishing to give a tangible realization to the important recommendations adcpted by the Conference, issued an official invitation to the several Governments of the civilized world, inviting them to send delegates to a diplomatic International Congress, to convene at Geneva on the 8th of August, 1864, to consider a project of convention or draft of a treaty substantially embodying the points recommended by the preliminary conference of last October. In the preparation of the "Articles" of this rough draft, the special point of volunteer sanitary service was omitted, on the ground that this was a matter falling more particularly within the domain of the domestic attributes of each country, and could not, therefore, be imposed upon Governments in advance by any outside dictation.

THE CONGRESS.

The International Congress held its first session on the day appointed, in the Hotel de Ville of Geneva, and during the past ten days has been engaged in an animated discussion of the various points of the proposed draft. To this Congress none but delegates holding official credentials from the several Governments are admitted. In most instances the delegations present are composed of one diplomatic delegate, and of one delegate experienced in military, medical, or sanitary matters. Some of the

Governments have accredited their representatives with plenary powers to sign a diplomatic treaty.

The following is a list of delegates:

BADEN—Dr. Steiner, Surgeon-Major, and Dr. Volz, Medical Counsellor and Chief of the Medical Bureau.

BELGIUM—Mr. Aug. Visschers, member of the Belgian Superior Council of Hygiene and Counsellor of the Board of Mines.

DENMARK—Dr. Fenger, Councillor of State.

SPAIN—Mr. De Quevedo, Spanish Minister at Berne.

UNITED STATES—Hon. George G. Fogg, Minister Resident at Berne, and Charles J. P. Bowles, Esq., European Agent of the United States Sanitary Commission.

FRANCE—Mr. Jagerschmidt, Sub-Director in the Department of Foreign Affairs; Mr. de Preval, Military Intendant, and Dr. Boudier, Surgeon-in-Chief of the French Army.

GREAT BRITAIN—Mr. Lougmore, Deputy Inspector-General and Professor of Surgery; Dr. Rutherford, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals.

HESSE—Major Brodrück, Chief of Battalion on Major-General's Staff.

ITALY—The Chevalier Baroffio, Medical Chief of Division of the Italian Army.

HOLLAND—Mr. Westenburg, Secretary of the Dutch Legation at Frank ort.

PORTUGAL—Dr. Marques, Chief of the Sanitary Department of the Portuguese Army.

PRUSSIA—M. de Kamptz, Prussian Minister at Berne; Dr. Loeffler, Surgeon-in-Chief of the Fourth Army Corps of the Prussian Army; Mr. Ritler, Select Counsellor to the Prussian War Department.

SAXONY—Dr. Gunther, Surgeon-General of the Saxon Army.

SWEDEN—Major Staaf, Attaché of the Swedish Legation at Paris.

SWITZERLAND—Gen. Dufour, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army; Mr. Moynier, President of the Genevan "Society of Public Usefulness;" Dr. Lehmann, Surgeon-General of the Swiss Army.

WURTEMBERG—Dr. Hahn.

Cotemporaneously with the Congress there has been also in session an adjourned meeting of the Conference of last year. This body is composed of all persons interested in sanitary matters who have been invited by the Central Sanitary Committee of Geneva. Its sessions have been held in the Atheneum, and here has been done the main labor of preparing suggestions for the action of the International Congress. Mr. Bowles, who represents in Europe the United States Sanitary Commission, has done much good by setting forth in the Conference the extent and scope of the work accomplished in America, and also by the distribution of various important pamphlets, medals and photographs, illustrative of the American Commission.

THE TREATY.

The Congress, after a mutual comparison of views among the members, and a discussion during six days upon the various points suggested for deliberation, concluded upon a protocol of an international treaty, which was signed upon the 22d of August. This "Convention," as finally adopted, differs very much from the first rough draft, prepared by the Swiss delegation as a preliminary basis of deliberation, and which has been published already in the English journals. The following is a translation of the document, which received the signatures of the plenipotentiaries from Italy, Baden, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Spain, Portugal, France, Prussia, Saxony, Wurtemburg and Switzerland:

CONVENTION FOR THE AMELIORATION OF THE CONDITION OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS OF ARMIES IN THE FIELD.

ARTICLE I.—The ambulances and military hospitals shall be recognized as neutral, and as such, so long as they shall be occupied by wounded or invalid soldiers, shall be protected and respected by the belligerents. The neutrality to cease in case the ambulances or hospitals are guarded by a military force.

ART. II.—The *personnel* of the hospitals and ambulances, including the staff, the sanitary, administrative and transport service of the wounded, and also chaplains, shall participate in the benefits of the neutrality so long as it shall be exercised, or so long as there shall remain any wounded to be collected and succored.

ART. III.—The persons designated in the article preceding shall be at liberty, even after the enemy's occupation, to continue the exercise of their functions at the hospital or ambulance to which they are attached, or to withdraw in order to rejoin the corps to which they belong. In such circumstances, when these persons shall have ceased to exercise their functions, they shall be transferred, under the direction of the occupying army, to its outposts.

ART. IV.—The *materiel* of the military hospitals being subject to the laws of war, the persons attached to said hospitals shall not be permitted, on withdrawing, to carry with them any articles, except such as form part of their personal property.

On the contrary, under the same circumstances, an ambulance shall preserve its *materiel* undisturbed. *(Conserve son materiel.)*

ART. V.—The country people who shall bring succor to the wounded shall be respected, and shall remain free from molestation. The generals of belligerent powers shall make it their mission to inform the inhabitants of the appeal made to their generosity, and of the neutrality secured to them in consequence.

Every wounded soldier transported to and cared for in any dwelling shall serve as a protection to such dwelling. Any inhabitant who shall have received wounded soldiers into his house, shall be released from the obligation to lodge troops, and shall also be exempted from paying a portion of the contributions of war that shall be levied.

ART. VI.—The wounded or invalid soldiers shall be collected and cared for, irrespective of their nationality.

Commanders in-chief shall be at liberty to transfer soldiers wounded in an engagement to the enemy's outposts, when the circumstances will permit, and with the consent of both parties.

Those of the wounded who, after treatment, shall be deemed incapable of further military service, shall be returned to the country to which they belong. The others may be likewise returned on giving parole to not take up arms again during the continuance of the war.

The military evacuation of hospitals, with the *personnel* in charge, shall be covered by an absolute neutrality.

ART. VII.—A distinctive uniform flag is hereby adopted for ambulances, for the hospitals, and for their evacuation. It must, however, be accompanied in all cases by the national flag.

A badge for the arm shall be worn by the *personnel* declared neutral, the delivery of said badge to be left to the military authority.

The flag and the badge shall bear a red cross on a field of white.

ART. VIII. The executive details of the present convention shall be regulated by the commanders-in chief of the belligerent forces, in accordance with the instructions of their respective governments, and in conformity with the general principles set forth in the present convention.

ART. IX. The high contracting powers hereby undertake to communicate the present convention to the other governments who have not sent plenipotentiaries to the International Congress of Geneva, with the invitation that they accede to the same; and for this end the protocol is left open.

ART. 10. The present convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Berne in three months from this date, or earlier if possible.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

As an evidence of their cordial sympathy with the objects proposed to be accomplished, the people of Switzerland, and of Geneva particularly, have surpassed themselves in the generous civilities which they have extended to the members of the Congress. The Swiss Federal Council tendered the compliment of a grand banquet at the "Hotel de la Metropole," and the "Conseil d'Etat" (the official representative body of the canton of Geneva,) have imitated the example. Mr. Gustave Moynier, President of the Geneva International Sanitary Committee, (the first sanitary organization formed in Europe,) invited the members to a "tea party" at his villa on Monday evening.

The following evening Colonel Edward Favre, aide-de-camp to the Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss army, gave a magnificent *fête champêtre* at his famous country seat "De la Grange," on the Italian side of the Lake of Geneva. It is one of the loveliest of the many lovely villas near Geneva, and not far from the Villa Diodati, so associated with the name of Byron. The house, which is a model of elegant taste, is enriched with a series of capacious rooms, the suite on the ground floor being devoted to reception-rooms, drawing-rooms, dining-rooms, reading-rooms, and library. All of these are well stored with fine paintings by Calame, original statuary by Canova, exquisite bronzes and *objets d'art*, and books of rarest value in every department of knowledge. Through these rooms, most brilliantly lighted, poured a stream of gratified guests all the evening.

On Thursday evening, Monsieur Theodore Vernes, one of the millionaires of Geneva, gave a similar fête at his villa, "Fleur d'Eau," on the French side of the lake. A large steamer with a fine military band was placed at the disposition of the invited guests to escort them to the place, and to reconvey them to Geneva. As part of the decorations at various points of the grounds were seen floating the flag proposed by the International Congress for the sanitary service-corps of armies, namely, a red Greek cross in the centre of a white ground. The whole entertainment waa a complete success.

The series of private entertainments culminated on Friday evening, in a grand *fête champêtre* at the villa of Monsieur Francis Barthalony, the celebrated banker of Paris, and one of the chief members of the Paris Central Sanitary Committee. Descended from an old Waldense family, M. Barthalony went originally to Paris a poor lad, having to rely on the benevolence of some friends to furnish him means to reach there. By dint of industry, business tact and zeal, he has achieved a very high social and financial position, and, with an abundant fortune, the result of an honorable career, he has devoted himself to the promotion of every movement of public and private philanthropy. His country seat at Séchéron, near Geneva, by the edge of the lake, is perhaps only surpassed by that of the Princess Borghese at Rome, or that of the Pallavicini family at Pegle.

On the day of the fête in question nothing seemed to have been omitted that could add to the happiness of those present. Just at sunset a regatta of the crack yachts of Geneva competed for a series of prizes offered by the Amphytrion of the occasion. As the fairy-like vessels started off and spread their canvas to the breeze, the lake was a perfect picture, the charm of which was much heightened by the fine view of Mont Blanc, which was tinted over with that rare roseate hue, the *Alpenglühen*, which Calame has caught so finely in his great picture of Mont Rosa. As the boats came back their arrival was greeted with cheers. As the twilight ended, the large and beautiful trees which form an amphitheatre of a large velvet lawn, closed in on either side and open toward the lake, were lighted with thousands of variegated spherical Chinese lanterns. The rows of orange trees lining the walks close to the house were decorated with what seemed like illuminated oranges. The rustic urns on the broad portico were filled with gigantic artificial lilies and tulips, all lighted by lamps inside; whilst moving to and fro on the lake before the grounds were two large steamers, covered from stem to stern with festoons of brilliant-colored lanterns, and, as they rose and fell with the undulating swell of the waves, made the whole scene fairy-like.

Certainly the members of *this* International Congress have reason for congratulation that they held th ir deliberations in so hospitable an atmosphere; and perhaps their success in endeavoring to mitigate the horrors of war, may be traced more or less to this hospitality and universal sympathy in their important mission.

THE AUXILIARY RELIEF CORPS.

Acting Superintendent Sperry reports, August 4:

The quiet that has prevailed during the most of this time—the suspension of active operations by the army—has given opportunity for that advancement in the organization of the Corps, which was impossible when every energy was strained in the work of instant relief to the suffering.

This work of organizing is now so far complete, that we are able to define with exactness the work of the whole Corps, and the place and duty of each man in it.

To this work and to these duties I would call your attention: first, premising that any changes that have been made are rather the growth of experience than the result of mere theory.

Accompanying the report will be found a plan of the hospitals at this point.

This plan shows the divisions and subdivisions of each hospital. It, at the same time, shows the plan of our own operations, since these are dependent upon the general plan of the whole.

It will be seen that the whole hospital is divided into "Corps Hospitals," organized with reference to Army Corps, as is the usual custom in this Department at depot hospitals. Also, we have the usual sub-divisions into divisions and wards, or sections.

In each Corps Hospital we have a relief tent, and a complement of men sufficient to put one in each ward or section. These wards are usually capable of accommodating one hundred and fifty patients, but are rarely full. In this elaboration of our work we bring our agents into direct contact with every man in the hospital. Very soon each agent becomes acquainted with every man in his ward, knows his condition, his wants, finds out the salient points

of his character, and often something of his history.

Where the right man is found for the work, he soon gains the confidence and esteem of those under his charge; and as time passes the feeling deepens into friendship. This is not theory merely, though resulting naturally from the laws of human intercourse, but is the concurrent testimony of our most reliable and trustworthy men. In this connection I beg leave to call attention to the report of one of the agents of the Corps made to the Superintendent, July 30, containing many valuable hints bearing upon the number, character, and work of our Relief Agents. Its author is a man of refinement and culture, and of holiest aspirations to do the utmost good. Three months of constant, self-denying toil in his quiet corner, entitle him to be heard. I call attention to his statement, that "our personal intercourse with the men, and possession of their confidence, secure that they ask for nothing but what they need, and so indirectly contribute largely to the treasury of the Commission."

So fully do I believe this statement, that I have no hesitancy in asserting, that were all our men like him, each one would be a source of pecuniary profit to the Commission, saving from waste, through the carelessness of men and improper requisitions by Surgeons, very much more than his salary and other expenses would cost. But "confidence" must be gained by qualities fitted to command it. A large warm-heartedness, with generous culture and good common sense, are among the essential qualities of a Relief Agent. So much depends upon the personal character of our agents that our success or failure will be determined by that alone. Are such men difficult to obtain? Then let fewer be used, but let the rule be, *good men or none.*

* * * * *

While the organization of the Corps is uniform in theory, in practice it adopts itself to circumstances. Since a hospital takes its tone from the temper of the Surgeon in charge, so naturally does—must—our work. Where the Surgeon is self-reliant, methodical, punctilious—"capable of running his own hospital!" we agree with him, and with a well-stocked tent and few men, quietly help him to do it, content to see a good hospital, even if the Sanitary Commission be informed that it could be dispensed with, but is allowed to stay, through a kindly feeling toward the people at home! Better thus to see a poor hospital feebly managed, than hear murmurs that the Sanitary Commission acts as if its stores were its own and not the people's! while we pour out lavishly with a feeling that we are aiding some unworthy Surgeon or steward in his neglect of duty. I am glad to say that this latter is rarely the case; sometimes it is. Surgeons, as a rule, are faithful in the discharge of their duties. Many are among the noble men of the profession. We studiously discourage faultfinding, as also that other evil fallen into by our enthusiastic friends, a belief that we do all the work—the Government nothing. Our work is supplementary—it can be nothing more. Such exaggerated statements falsify facts, and excite the distrust of Surgeons.

As the campaign drags on into the sickly season, we begin to feel heavily the loss of our tried and faithful men. So many have gone home sick, that but few who came out in May now remain. The remainder will soon go by reason of the expiration of their term of service. Soon the Corps must be filled up with new men. Would it not be wise to take this opportunity of securing men for a longer term—for the campaign or for the war.

The attention called to the necessity for good men should not be construed that we have not had good men in our service. As a rule they have been earnest, active and successful. To this there have been and are exceptions. The living members of the Corps must be content to labor on quietly, with no reward but the consciousness of having done their duty. To the dead let us pay a tribute justly deserved.

Professor H. H. Hadley, of Union Theological Seminary, came into the service on the 30th of June, intending to stay until the 15th of September.

As we came to know him we forgot the scholar in our regard for the man. Laying aside for the time his life-work as student and teacher, he consecrated head, heart, and hand to the work of alleviating the

suffering with which he saw himself surrounded. While other men rested he worked, while others slept he watched, until at last, after two nights of care over desperate cases of fever, holding his last watch amid a cold, driving storm, he laid down himself to struggle with the same disease. Always cheerful, always hopeful, he did not wish to go home. At last, when he grew worse und it was plain he could not recover here, he was placed on board the hospital transport Connecticut, to be sent home. He died soon after the boat reached the wharf in Washington.

No truer spirit has ever laid its clay tenement on the altar of our country. To those who knew him, his memory will be sacred forever. Nor will his death be in vain, unless lofty self-sacrifice has lost its power over human hearts. *Requiescat in pace* scarce need be written on his grave, for he laid his body down in the spirit of Him who said: "He that loses his life for my sake the same shall save it."

I call attention to the accompanying reports. They are selected from the many in this office, simply because each presents some points worthy of your attention. The remainder contain only such details as are of minor importance.

THE COLORED HOSPITAL.

Three weeks later, August 27, Mr. Sperry writes:

The Colored Hospital was removed August 13th to the ground and tents formerly used for the hospital of the 6th Corps. At this time I was assigned to the charge of the Sanitary Station connected with it.

In the confusion incident to the removal, many of the patients passed, for some days, from under the notice of our agents, and were only found after a new acquaintance with the whole hospital had been formed. Little or no suffering, however, resulted from the change, while there was a positive gain in the superior accommodations acquired. The number in hospital was then quite large—about eleven hundred—but was soon after reduced nearly to its present dimensions, three hundred and seventy men.

Previous to this removal we had no regular station in the hospital. Stores were issued to the light diet kitchen, and two agents were at work in the wards, and this was deemed sufficient for the existing condition of the hospital. But the bloody disaster of the 30th July, and the growing importance of the colored branch of the service, made it desirable that we should have the same representation here as in other hospitals. This is now the case. We have stores, tents, and mess arrangements capable to meet any exigencies that may arise.

The relations existing in this hospital between the agents of the Commission and the surgeons are very satisfactory. The Surgeon in charge is a man of character, and does not attempt to use his authority for the advancement of his own interests at the expense of the Commission. *All* articles of diet are issued directly to the light diet kitchen, and thence to the patients; and such are our relations with the noble-hearted woman in charge of the kitchen, that nothing remains to be desired, perfect sympathy and co-operation being the established rule.

All issues of liquors are made by our own agents. The Surgeons' orders for stimulants are sent to us each day, and the patients are supplied by our own hands or under our personal supervision. The fact is, that too few, rather than too many, are upon these surgeons' lists. At this station, at least, the charge that "the doctors drink all the liquor," must be false, for they get none of it to drink! In making milk punch, the milk and whisky are drawn from the Dispensary, but it is my conviction that we had better furnish our own liquor, using Government milk. My recent experience with Government whisky has caused this reversal of judgment. Perhaps it is not always of its present "*blue ruin*" quality. The whole question of the liquor, supply is at present one of quality rather than quantity. Shall we substitute a good article for a poor? Whisky and brandy, (usually *very bad*,) are to be had at the Medical Purveyor's in sufficient quantity. We should, I think, be able always to supply an article of undoubted quality to all severe cases, leaving others to be cared for by the surgeons.

The total amount of our issues is small, compared with the earlier part of the cam-

paign. The terrible exigencies of that time are past. No such destitution is found among the soldiers, and the Government supply is ample. Doubtless some issues are still made unnecessarily, yet most such are to be referred to the difficulty inherent in any system of charitable supply, and can only be reduced to a minimum by care and experience in giving.

Good men in the wards are always needed; especially is that the case here. Most nurses, among soldiers, are deficient in the higher qualities of tact, patience, and warm-hearted sympathy—with, of course, noble exceptions. Colored nurses add to these deficiencies the greater one of a lack of soldierly fellow-feeling for their sick and wounded comrades. It seems a general fact that colored people are cruel toward each other. A white soldier sees in a suffering soldier a "partner" in distress. The word "partner" is not in a negro soldier's vocabulary! In these the barbarism of heathenism has been replaced by a barbarism of civilization, but little more refined and scarcely less cruel. The one positive, and seeking victims; the other negative, and neglecting its victims. As our denial of a common humanity to slaves has taught them inhumanity to each other, so we need to teach them by long years of example, perhaps, that as free men they can claim a common human nature only by being humane. In our work as "Sanitary men," we need a full comprehension of this part of their nature, that while we may detest their vices, we may remember that they are very much what we have made them be. The same spirit that is allowed full play in a charge that gives no quarter, must needs sometimes appear when no such terrible necessity calls it forth.

From the agent's reports referred to by Mr. Sperry, we select the following:

MR. ORRIS.

July 30.

The nature and extent of my work are as when I last reported. Chiefly sick, not wounded, are those on whom I wait. The length of time they have been here has furnished me an opportunity of becoming quite intimately acquainted with them all. The interest which frequent intercourse and personal acquaintance with each has awakened on their behalf, lends wings to our efforts and fervor to our prayers for their restoration. As I stated a few weeks ago, our personal intercourse with the men and possession of their confidence, secure that they ask for nothing but what they need, and so indirectly contribute largely to the treasury of the Commission. Where there are thousands of sufferers who remain but a short time, this saving of our funds, this indirect contribution to our treasury, could be secured by multiplying the number of our Sanitary Agents. For the agents being more in number, and being each assigned to fewer wards, could visit the sufferers more frequently in a less space of time, form their personal acquaintance, gain their confidence, learn their actual wants, guard against the tricks and selfishness of the nurses, and so secure to the Commission all the benefits that a fewer number of agents among an ordinary number of more permanent patients would secure.

This multiplication of agents for hospitals burdened and groaning with transient sufferers, would also result in a multiplication of ministrations and benefits to both the bodies and minds of the sufferers themselves. And yet the utility of such a multiplication of agents, would justly be brought into question. For if there be agents enough to do all the service that may be done when the ground is blotted out with sick and wounded men, there will, if arithmetic is true, be *supernumaries* when on a sudden a large proportion of sick and wounded are taken away. So that what a multiplicity of agents would save the Commission, through personal acquaintance, etc., with the patients and nurses, and what additional benefits they would confer on the patients and nurses themselves, might in the end be counterbalanced by the additional cost of these multiplied agents, the consequent diminution of the treasury, and therefore of the supplies for future sick and wounded.

* * * * *

As ever, I am persuaded of the broad and mighty work the Commission are accomplishing. Like every work for immortality, it is largely silent and unknown. In that land where the wars of time shall have yielded to eternal peace, and where the inhabitant never says, I am sick, the extent of our work will be known.

* * * * *

August 6.

I have nothing to say in regard to my work, except that recently it has been too great for my powers of endurance.

It is known that all we have, except articles of food, we distribute to the soldiers personally in the wards. I have found it discreet to distribute but one thing at a time in order through the wards in which I wait. I have also found it profitable to state to the soldiers in the wards and flies, the modes of our operations, the delicate

nature of our duties, the grounds on which we have to exercise discriminating judgments; the grounds on which we have to say yes to one man, and no to another. With such an explanation, kindly and pleasantly made, a no imparts as great satisfaction, as a yes without it. It also convinces the convalescents of the impropriety and inutility of their flocking to our tent and troubling our storekeeper there.

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MR. J. Y. PEEK.

July 16.

As an Agent of the Commission and working under your supervision, it is not necessary that I should render a detailed report of the manner in which its stores are distributed, nor need I refer to their great abundance and adaptability to the necessities and comfort of the patients. Permit me, however, to say, that during an experience of two years in the field and general hospitals, I never saw either sick or wounded soldiers as favorably situated as they are here. Sometimes I find some who are anxious to get to Washington, but knowing the unsanitary condition of said city, and the worth of pure air, I have in all such cases endeavored to persuade them to be content to remain here, and I have succeeded in almost all instances in convincing them that they are better off here than they would be there.

The work of personal relief, as day after day has passed, has been well done, and if the present facilities but continue, there need be no fears for the future. How much good the liberal, palpable sympathy of the loyal North has accomplished here! Through it we have been enabled to distributute *material* aid, together with cheering words.

Sir, we "working men," find that we are quite contented, and even happy at our work. The sudden flush of gratitude, the quick, grateful glances of eyes that *will* speak, though the tongue may be silent. We treasure them up. They are not to be found in the *civilized* conventional world.

You have given us home comforts as our aim. We are nearer to that aim than may be imagined. With the exception of the familiar faces and associations, it is generally already attained.

I have seen no State Agent at work, but have met delegates of the Christian Commission when they were holding religious services in the tents.

KANSAS.

Several letters from Mr. Brown, at Leavenworth, tell of great suffering and destitution in his district. Crowds of refugees flock into the neighborhood, and almost all of them are helpless, inefficient, and utterly dependent upon charity. These, in addition to the patients in hospitals, overwhelm him with demands for assistance. Supplies have reached him from Cleveland, Chicago, and St. Louis, and others are on the way. These, Mr. Brown says, "are sent out to the hospitals as soon as transportation can be procured. The want of transportation is the great obstacle in the way of rendering speedy relief to the sick in distant hospitals. I would keep a team moving constantly, but there is now no safety in sending goods without an escort. I improve every opportunity that is safe to forward supplies to the outposts, but I am not able to fill all requisitions. I have another good invoice from Chicago, with a very kind letter—goods not yet arrived. I have one Refugee and Soldiers' Home started—have two very good buildings leased. Freedmen's Department filling up fast."

TESTIMONY OF LIEUT. COL. SUMMERS, MEDICAL INSPECTOR U. S. A.

MEMPHIS, TENN., *August* 24, 1864.

DR. L. LEWIS COXE, *U. S. Sanitary Inspector for the Valley of the Miss.:*

DEAR SIR—In reply to your request, asking what my observations had been in my tours of inspection regarding the distribution and use made of the "people's" gifts through the Sanitary Commission, I take pleasure in stating that I have almost always found more or less, and generally a liberal supply of them in the General Hospitals of this city, and in those at Vicksburg and Natchez, as well as the Regimental Hospitals (in the camps) at the two latter places.

With the occasional exception, which occurs in camps, they invariably reach their *proper* destination, and are consumed by those for whom they are intended. I take pleasure in making this statement, for the reason that the impression has been made to a very considerable extent, that the medical officers on duty in General Hospitals get and consume the lion's share of them. *I know* that this is not the case where I have inspected, for the officers board out in the cities, and the exception is only where the Hospital is isolated and at a distance from such accommodations.

Pardon me for the introduction in this note of an opinion I entertain regarding canned fruits generally. I do not think that they are so healthful or well adapted for *the sick* as those that have been dried.

The preparation of the latter for table use is very simple, and can almost always be done without difficulty. There is a very great loss in the canned, and not unfrequently the contents are damaged to some extent, which is not discovered by *our army cooks*, and it has a very bad effect on those who eat of it.

The anti-scorbutics have been a special boon. The amount of fresh vegetables, more particularly potatoes, have been the means, together with those furnished by the Commissary Department of the Army, of saving the lives of vast numbers, and keeping up a good sanitary condition of the troops. The ratio of sickness and per centage of mortality has been materially diminished, falling far short of that which took place last year during the corresponding months of March, April, May, June, and July. This is to be ascribed, in some degree, to the officers and men having learned the better how to take care of themselves. * * *

I am Doctor, yours very respectfully,

JNO. E. SUMMERS,
Med. Inspec. U. S. A.

REALLY OLD LINEN.

The New Haven Auxiliary Society writes:

"We have a contribution of some antediluvian linen, with the following history. I send it thinking it may be made an item.

"The linen sheet made into two, marked I°E, belonged to Jehosaphat and Elizabeth Starr. He was established in business in Guilford, 1732; they were married in 1734. She was daughter of Ruggles, one of the early clergymen of this old town, and the sheet must be 130 years old. Two of these old family treasures descended to Mr. Henry B. Starr. One he gave me a year ago, and a few days since brought me the pair of linen pillow-cases and this old sheet."

WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

AT NASHVILLE.

Mr. Root reports, July 30:

At the commencement of the present campaign of the Army of the Cumberland, we had in store at this place, about three thousand barrels of vegetables, consisting of potatoes, kraut, and pickles; also, a large stock of condensed milk, whisky, condensed beef and fruits, besides shirts, drawers, sheets, pillows, and pillow-slips, rags and bandages.

These stores had been accumulated by request of Gen. Sherman, for the use of the army when the campaign should open. Every facility necessary for the rapid transportation of the goods to the front has been furnished by the Government.

In addition to this stock, then on hand, large supplies have since been continually coming forward from Louisville, at the rate of one hundred tons per week, and have been shipped to Chattanooga as fast as received. There has been no complaint on the subject of transportation, since the army commenced its march. The Government has fully anticipated and provided for the wants of the campaign; three thousand cars are now daily running between Nashville and the front, and army stores of all descriptions and sanitary stores find an easy transit to the scene of conflict and suffering.

In order that the sanitary stores might be distributed where they were most needed, and where they would best answer the ends for which the Commission was instituted, I conferred at the opening of the campaign with the Medical Director, and the Medical Purveyor and the Post Commissary at this place, as to the course best to be pursued. The sick and wounded that had been previously patients in the hospitals at Chattanooga and other points beyond this, were in May transferred to this place, and to hospitals farther North; creating while *in transitu* an increased demand for sanitary supplies here; and this demand was largely increased, as soon as the wounded from the battles of the campaign began to arrive.

A large Corps of Sanitary Agents had gone to the front, in May, and were keeping pace with the progress of the army.

These agents were sending back daily the most urgent requests to hurry forward supplies to them. Under these circumstances, how could all the wants of the sick and wounded soldiers in General Hospital, here and at the front, be met? To this inquiry I gave the most careful attention. The Medical Director, the Medical Purveyor and Post C mmissary, advised me that sanitary stores were needed more at the front than at any other place; that all the general hospitals were supplied by Government with everything actually ne-

cessary; that at the front, where the storm of battle was actually raging, exigencies were continually arising, beyond the organized means of the Government to provide for; and that *there*, at or near the field of battle, was the appropriate sphere for the Sanitary Commission to discharge its humane duties of love and mercy.

Dr. Clendenin, the Medical Director, clearly defined to me the duties of Surgeons in charge of hospitals, and pointed out the manner in which they could and should provide with whatever is necessary for their patients *from the Government;* and in connection with the subject, he furnished me with the following written orders, which I deemed of sufficient importance to have printed for the information of our own agents:

OFFICE ASST. MED. DIR., D. C., NASHVILLE, June 15, 1864.

CIRCULAR.

The attention of Medical Officers is respectfully directed to circular No. 5, Surgeon-General's Office, April 13, 1863, viz.:

The Senior Medical Officer of hospitals, regiments, posts, or detached commands, will make their requisitions for medical and hospital supplies upon the Medical Director whom they may be serving.

* * * * *

It is not the design of the Sanitary Commission to perform the duties which belong to the officers of the Medical Department, nor to furnish those medical stores which ordinarily are supplied by this Department, when properly asked for, or when needed.

* * * * *

The supplies of the Sanitary Commission, then, will not be drawn upon by Medical Officers to meet the current expenditures of their hospitals; and Medical Officers who, previous to the issue of this circular, have been in the habit of asking, without the necessity, for these gratuitous issues, are believed to have done so through ignorance of the proper means of obtaining their hospital stores, or prompted by the desire to clear themselves from a responsibility to which they would be held by this Bureau, for culpable negligence in the use and waste of supplies received from the regular purveying officers of the Medical Department.

* * * * *

(Signed,) W. A. HAMMOND,
Surgeon-General.

W. CLENDENIN,
Surgeon U. S. V., Asst. Med. Dir., Department of the Cumberland.

OFFICE ASST. MED. DIR., NASHVILLE, June 15, 1864.

CIRCULAR.

The following instructions are again furnished for the information of "Surgeons in charge," who are charged with the faithful execution of the same:

All issues of clothing made to patients in hospital, should be noted on the descriptive rolls of the man receiving the clothing.

In cases where no descriptive roll has been furnished by the company commanders, the clothing needed should be issued *at once*, and such issues noted on a partial descriptive roll. This partial roll should be made out by the Surgeon in charge, giving the name, rank, reputed company, regiment, age, height, complexion, color of eyes, hair, and such other facts as may be obtainable at the time, and which would assist in a legal identification of the name.

If a full descriptive roll should be received from the company commander before the man leaves the hospital, all issues made to him should be noted on this roll, and the partial descriptive roll should be destroyed at once.

It has been officially reported to this office, that a number of sick and wounded men have been transferred from hospitals in Nashville to Louisville, Ky., without any other clothing than drawers and shirts. It is hoped, that under no circumstances will "Surgeons in charge" again permit any man to be sent out in such condition. The Government has made liberal provision for issuing clothing to troops, especially to men in hospitals; consequently, there can be no excuse whatever for soldiers of the United States Army being sent out of hospital without clothing, in a half nude state.

(Signed,) W. CLENDENIN,
Surgeon U. S. V., Asst. Med. Dir., Department of the Cumberland.

As the work of the Commission is supplemental to that of the Government, we have been governed by these orders, (in the distribution of our stores,) wherever general hospitals have been established, and the Government has had sufficient time to supply them with their full complement of hospital stores.

This has been our general rule, subject to such exceptions as the necessities of the case often required. When Government supplies can be had, and sufficient time afforded to reach them through author-

ized channels, the distribution of sanitary stores is unnecessary. In the transfer of patients from one hospital to another, sufficient time is not always given to supply patients with necessary clothing, through the established army regulations. In such cases the Sanitary Commission comes to the relief of the needy. Individual applications for relief have been always disposed of according to the wants of the applicant, where those other wants cannot properly be relieved.

Confining our distributions in general hospitals to the above order of the Medical Director, we have been enabled to send to the front, a much larger amount of supplies, than otherwise have been done; at the same time, the aid rendered by the Commission here to hospitals, to individual soldiers, to parts of regiments on detached duty, and to regiments guarding the railroad and river, between Nashville and Chattanooga, has been constant and of very considerable magnitude. We have always endeavored to regulate our distributions by the comparative wants and necessities of the different parts of the field to be supplied. I do not know that the work could have been better done than it has been.

For a more particular statement of the relation that the Sanitary Commission bears to general hospitals, I refer you to the communication of Dr. Woodward, drawn up by my request, to accompany this report.

About the time that wounded soldiers began to arrive in considerable numbers from the front, application was made to me by Surgeons and other Government officers, to have special relief, in the form of refreshment, provided for them at Chattanooga Depot, in Nashville, and at Decherd Station, about half-way between Nashville and Chattanooga. I thought it highly proper for the Commission to comply with this request. An agent, with your approbation, was sent to Decherd, with the necessary supplies to establish a "Soldiers' Rest" there; and for several weeks past, all sick and wounded soldiers passing from the front to Nashville, have been supplied at Decherd with coffee, tea, beef soup, lemonade, milk punch, crackers and bread, and have received such other attention as was necessary.

At first, a large number of the wounded came from the front in box-cars, and when they arrived in Nashville, they frequently had to wait, in an exhausted condition, from one to three hours, before they could be transferred to hosp.tals. I visited them as they came in, and saw them lying on the bottom of the cars, weary, hungry, thirsty, and suffering from their wounds.

I made arrangements immediately for supplying them with milk punch, cooled with ice, and with soft crackers.

This was refreshing to them, and those that looked on and heard their expressions of satisfaction and gratitude, were often affected to tears. This was a good work; but for the last month hospital cars, furnished with every comfort necessary for wounded men, have been provided for transferring wounded soldiers from the front to Nashville, and the necessity for our supplying them at Chattanooga Depot no longer exists. The "Soldiers' Rest" at Decherd is still in operation, under the care of Dr. Hillman, and from five hundred to a thousand soldiers a week, are there kindly cared for.

I think proper in this communication to call your attention to the great amount of work for soldiers, done at the "Soldiers' Home" in Nashville, under the efficient management of Capt. Brayton.

Hospital visiting has been faithfully attended to by Rev. Mr. Ingraham, and in addition to his other duties, he has officiated as Chaplain on Sunday, in the "Soldiers' Home." I have also myself visited the hospitals as often as a proper attention to my other duties would permit. I have endeavored to keep myself acquainted with their wants, necessities and general condition, and to supply them to the extent of our means and obligation.

The number of patients in them, since the opening of the campaign, has greatly increased. They are much in want of vegetables, which the market here cannot supply, and of rags for the dressing of wounds, which the Government heretofore has not attempted to supply. Rags are not on the supply-table of the Medical Purveyor.

That you may be made acquainted fully

with the statistics and general condition of the hospitals in Nashville, at the present date, I have requested Dr. Woodward to visit them and furnish me with such statistics, and the results of his observation in the same.

This he has done. His great experience as an Army Surgeon, gives additional value to his statements and suggestions. I herewith inclose his communication to me on this subject, as a part of this report.

For further particulars, I refer you to the reports of Mr. Robinson, Mr. Ingraham and Captain Brayton, in their several departments.

DECHERD, TENNESSEE.

Dr. Hillman writes, August 15:

There is probably in no other institution a more gratifying situation than the office I occupy at present, in taking care of the sick and wounded. Having had, for a long time, nothing but "hard tack," the poor, exhausted patient's face smiles over the rich beef soup which is offered to him. The wounded, sun-burnt hero, asking for water to fill his empty canteen, and being told to wait a minute, is astonished at getting milk punch, something to eat, and a fresh dressing for his wounds, in addition to the canteen of water; he will look at you in dumb wonder, but the moistened eye is eloquent where the tongue falters and fails. It need Holmes's pen or Darley's pencil to do justice to the scenes that are common under my eye. Tell that pale man, who has been lingering for a long time with a disease contracted in the service of his country—tell him the best medicine you can administer is found in the word "Home," with all that it suggests of affection, comfort, and repose, and the wan countenance brightens at once, the jolting of the car is no longer felt, the heat of the long day is forgotten, and the hard box-car is pillowed with the sweetest imaginations. There is too much noise and too much bustle at the departure of the train, for many words of farewell from my patients, newly found and as quickly changing, but I cannot forget their faces radiant with a voiceless gratitude.

A few days ago, a train, with but one wounded man on board, stopped at the station the usual twenty-five minutes, and I was thus allowed to give him undivided attention. He had been badly wounded at the ankle joint by a bomb-shell. I dressed his wound, gave him a pillow to rest his foot on, fed and refreshed him; he was trying to thank me, but the words were choked with tears. After he left, I was surprised to hear that he was a Confederate soldier. Will this man *remain* a rebel? Will he have a chance of visiting Belle Isle?

Once in a while very amusing incidents happen. There is but one step from the *tragic*, as well as the sublime, to the ridiculous. I am often obliged to use disinfectants for severe and offensive wounds, and have a solution in a wine bottle, still wearing the attractive, gilded label, "Bordeaux, St. Julien, Medoc." While I was busily engaged the other day with my work, the bottle close at hand, it had proved too strong a temptation to a soldier lying near, and, when my back was turned, he hurriedly gulped down a generous swallow. You can imagine the sneezing, coughing, retching, and thorough disgust which betrayed, at the same time, the sly theft and his fearful disappointment, much to the amusement of all present.

The ice-house is completed. No ice has been received in quantity, but, through the kindess of Dr. Hazen, I get small supplies from his hospital train.

In regard to telegrams I am happy to say that they have been regularly received, save only when interrupted by the thunderstorms along the line through the mountains. But as nurses take turns in watching at night, I have been prepared in all cases of night arrivals.

The number of patients fed and attended to at this station, from August 3d to the 15th, is eleven hundred and eighty-nine. I select from my memorandum the details descriptive of a single day:

August 15.—Train No. 8, in two sections, arrived 2.30 A. M. First section had one hundred and forty-seven patients; fed them, and dressed wounds for eleven privates and two officers. Second section had seventy-five patients; found one Frenchman and thirty-nine Germans. They were glad to be addressed each in his native tongue.

Train No. 5, arrived before time, at 2¼ P. M., with twelve patients; fed them, and gave morphine to one man in great pain.

Train No. 6, arrived at 9¼ P. M.; had twenty-five patients; gave them coffee and milk punch; administered soporifics. Total, two hundred and fifty-nine patients on August 15th.

To Mr. Root I have written for supplies needed here, and expect to receive them soon.

HOSPITAL VISITING.

Mr. Ingraham writes from Nashville, August 6:

The last week has been filled with its continuous round of daily duties, some great, some small. Not a little time has been occupied in answering letters from friends of sick or wounded soldiers. Every mail brings some—each eloquent in the entreaty that the Hospital Visitor will look up the beloved husband or son or brother—see their condition, attend to their wants—see if they can get a sick furlough, or be transferred to some hospital nearer home, and where their friends can meet them. All of these letters require an answer, sometimes two or three letters in reply, besides a great deal of time and labor spent in searching out the case. Let me give an instance:

A few days ago a letter was received requesting information of Hiram McFreeman, who was known to have been brought to Nashville very sick—but a long time had elapsed, no letters to him were answered, and whether he was alive or dead his friends could not learn. They wrote to the Hospital Visitor. He took the letter and went to the office of the Medical Director, where the record of all hospital patients is kept, and began his search over the long pages, scanning every one of the hundreds of names. But no such name appeared. He then went backwards over the list, but page after page was examined until his back and fingers ached, but certainly no such name was there. He looked at the letter again, and there was strong evidence that such a person had been in hospital in Nashville.

What next was to be done but to visit the hospitals themselves, and look at their books, for sometimes mistakes are made, even at the Medical Director's. So the nearest hospital was visited, and an hour exhausted, but no such name was there. Then a long, hot walk, and the books of another examined, but with as little success. Then another long walk, and a third hospital record investigated, but with like result. Tired out and heated, the thing was given up for that day. Upon the next (two more letters with similar inquiries having come in the interval,) he starts upon a two mile walk, for no ambulance could be had, to the largest hospital.

Here, also, pages of names, reaching weeks and months back, are carefully pored over, but without success. He is about to give it up, when a thought suddenly strikes him. He then begins a search for Hiram M. Foreman, and finds the name, and on inquiry learns that he is the very man he wants, but that his name has been misspelt, and then he learns that the young man has entirely recovered, and that he left the hospital the *day before to join his regiment!*

This may be considered a rare case, but yet not altogether as uncommon as we could wish. At best, it requires much time to find the parties, investigate their condition, talk with them, see their Surgeons about them, write to their friends, and keep up the interest and communication until they recover or are removed.

With one exception the hospitals are all in good condition. We trust that kindly influences brought to bear upon that will soon make it no longer an exception.

I have heretofore omitted to report what, perhaps, I should have done, viz.: my voluntary services as Chaplain in hospitals. I do not mean the occasional bed-side services which are continually occurring, but those of a more regular character. There are faithful Chaplains here, and some who go beyond their strength. But there are, nevertheless, hospitals which, from some cause, *seem* to be quite destitute of the regular and constant services of a Chaplain.

All of the hospitals are frequently visited by clerical tract and book distributors, and who occasionally hold religious ser-

vices. But these gentlemen are generally on short vacations from their own parishes in the North; they naturally desire to go over as much ground as possible in the given time, and therefore, any good impression that one or two visits to a hospital may make, is generally lost for want of repetition and following up. Or else the kindly impression of perhaps one excellent and experienced Visitor is driven away by the succession of new faces and voices.

What is needed, in I think the most of our hospitals, is a sufficient number of faithful *resident* Chaplains; gentlemen selected for their experience, wisdom and devotion to the cause. The Chaplain should know personally almost every man in the hospital, or if the hospital be too large, then he should have one or more assistants. He should visit once or twice each day every case inviting peculiar sympathy, for counsel, consolation, and prayer. He should know how to approach men with judgment and discretion, so as not to repel but to draw them; not to shut up their hearts but to open them; not to kill but in every sense to cure.

A good Surgeon knows well the value of such a spiritual assistant. He should also know what kind of religious reading each man should have, and he should have the authority and control over the distribution of it. He should not permit that indiscriminate tract and book distribution, which gives a tract on dancing to a man who has lost his leg, or a book on "*The Wrath to Come,*" to some poor, broken, and contrite heart, that needs binding up with the gentlest hand. In a word, his hospital should be his parish. It would take but a little time for such a man to gain the confidence of his patients, and to have access to their heart of hearts.

Some of such men have visited our hospitals, and have, in barely one conversation, gained the confidence of many who longed for their return. But alas, they were of the *peripatetic* order; they had made a good impression, but were suddenly gone to return no more, and the poor disappointed, discouraged sick man, after listening long in vain for the returning footsteps of that friendly voice, turns his face to the wall, refuses to listen to the succession of new voices and faces that flit past, or stop a moment before him, and shuts up his heart in despair.

I will not enter upon the statistics of Chaplaincy, nor the mode of appointment, neither the method of remedy; but having touched upon a *sanitary* desideratum here —"sanitary" in its fullest sense—will go on to report, that in one of these hospitals, where there are five hundred patients, there having been no kind of religious service, I was told, for two months—no one to bury the dead, or administer at the bedside of the dying—at the earnest solicitation of the patients, I volunteered to give them as much of my time as I could spare. This at once involved Sunday services, and as the patients were mostly confined to their beds, a service was required in each ward, there being six in all. This, in addition to a service in the Refugee Barracks, has been kept up for about three months, in addition to occasional week-day visiting. This has, at last, however, proved too much for my strength. And as of late, I have, by request, undertaken regular Sunday services at the Soldiers' Home, the hospital services have been reluctantly given up. On yesterday, however, it being the national fast day, I held services, by special request of the Surgeons in charge, both at the main building and in its branch, having a large and most attentive congregation.

At the Soldiers' Home, I have good and attentive congregations once on each Sunday. There are from forty upwards at each service. On these occasions I use the little "Soldiers' Prayer Book," which affords great satisfaction, each man having a book. At the close of the services the men are presented with the book which they have been using. Several hundred have been given them in this way. For quite a number of these and other books, I am indebted to the kindness of the Rev. Montgomery Schuyler, D.D., of St. Louis.

For several months past, I have also held a regular Sunday service in the Refugee Barracks of this city, where, also, a Sunday-School has been established and kept up. There, also, I have had frequent burial services, and many an opportunity of a kind and blessed word.

HOSPITALS.

Dr. Woodward reports:

I have the honor to report, that in obedience to your request, I have made an inspection of some of the hospitals in this city, and though time has not allowed an examination of all, enough has been done to show that there is a necessity for aid from the Sanitary Commission.

By an examination of the reports herewith inclosed, you will perceive that vegetables are much needed, and though most of the hospitals have a large hospital fund, it cannot avail to meet this want, for the reason that a sufficient number of vegetables cannot be purchased in this market. Butter, eggs, rags and bromine, are loudly called for.

As you are aware that frequent complaints are made in Northern newspapers, of the misappropriation of the supplies of the Sanitary Commission, my attention has been directed particularly to this matter, and I am convinced that the complaints are groundless. I could find no instance where medical officers live or board at the hospitals, or make use of any sanitary supplies. The officers either board in private families, or have a mess of their own—and the kitchens of the hospitals are for the most part under charge of ladies from the Christian or Sanitary Commissions, and the Surgeons have given me every facility for making the closest inquiries, and feel that the more fully the investigation is made, the more confidence will the people have in their honesty.

The men in the hospital are well cared for, and with the exception of the "professional grumblers," are contented and cheerful.

* * * * *

Blackberry wine and cordial, are highly valued at the hospitals, and a supply would do much good.

Rags and bandages in unlimited quantities are called for—the great numbers of wounded arriving demanding supplies.

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Rev. A. L. Payson reports:

My labors have been so varied and disconnected the past month, that it is somewhat difficult for me to send you a regular report of my immediate labors. Since the colored troops came, until their organization, we have had our hands full. Our labors have been unremitting and arduous. Since their organization they have been put in camp. Means were at once instituted to give them regular instruction, which has been continued, though necessarily with more or less interruption. It is truly astonishing to witness the rapid progress they have made. In some instances, they have learned the alphabet in fifty-five minutes, and in forty-eight hours they have remained in the camp, under the influence instituted, there was every indication that they would have made great improvement.

For their encouragement, special hours were selected for writing letters for them. The efforts expended in their behalf have resulted in great good, and fully establish the fact of the aptness of the colored man to learn to read and write. In carefully visiting the two infantry regiments organized, I found in the 114th (now ordered to Burnside Point,) there were one hundred and eighty-five able to read in the Testament—in the 116th, now in camp here, one hundred and thirty-two. Being deeply interested in the welfare of these men, I ave devoted a portion of each day (in connexion with Rev. J. G. Fee, a most devoted man,) to the interests of the colored troops, in laying the foundation for their future advancement in knowledge.

My labors among the refugees have increased the past month. These circumstances have been such as to demand the attention of some one to meet their varied and multiplied wants.

The condition of the camp at the present time is as follows: At the Camp of Distribution there were one hundred and ninety men. An order has been issued calling for all able for field duty. One hundred and sixty have left.

In the convalescent Camp Hospital there are four hundred and twenty-three—fifty-four of these on low diet. The prevailing disease is said to be diarrhea. Of the different States represented in our hospitals, Michigan is said to have the ascendancy.

In the General Hospital I give you the number on the different diets in all its branches:

Number on low diet in Gen. Hospital	153
" half " "	81
" full diet in "	177
" low " Measles Ward	50
" half " "	7
" full " "	23
" in Small-pox branch	13
Total	504
Number of Nurses and Attendants	60
Total	564

There are about two hundred and thirty colored troops included in the above, about equal proportions of them on the different diets.

In the Prison Hospital there are twenty patients—about one half on *low* diet. In the Employees' Hospital seventeen patients—eight on low diet—five on half diet—diarrhea prevails.

The above are entirely dependent for Sanitary Supplies on the Home, except perhaps the General Hospital, which is in part supplied by the Cincinnati Branch. You will see the necessity that a suitable and full supply of stores be kept at this point. For some time past our calls have been very urgent, and for articles absolutely necessary for the comfort of the sick. I regret to say that we have not been able to answer these calls. Our supplies at present are entirely inadequate to meet the demands that will be made. We shall have large bodies of colored troops, and immediately on the appointment of medical officers a Regimental Hospital will be established. They will require more or less Sanitary supplies. The 114th Regiment U. S. Colored Troops that have been ordered to Burnside Point, will need looking after, having left without physician or medicine. The 49th Kentucky will leave, and of course all Medical and Sanitary Stores appertaining to the Regiment will be removed.

Of the last stores received nearly all have been given out to the different hospitals here. Should further calls be made by the hospitals or regiments here, we shall not be prepared to meet them.

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The Cumberland Hospital is located about a mile and a half from Nashville, and is on elevated ground. It was originally a field hospital, composed altogether of tents. The intention now is to remove the tents as fast as possible, and supply their places with more permanent structures. To give some definite idea of this little city of invalids, Mr. Woodruff, the Hospital Steward, furnishes the following statistics of this hospital. The hospital is generally regarded as very faithfully and efficiently managed:

The daily average of patients last month was 2,891; attendants, 190. Total patients and attendants, 3,081. Exclusive of the above attendants are fourteen colored men employed in policing the grounds, and seventy-three colored women employed as cooks, washers, and seamstresses. There are also nine white men and twenty white women employed in the laundry, included in the 190 attendants, employed as clerks, cooks, and helpers, ironers and seamstresses. There are washed and ironed daily, Sundays excepted, 2,500 pieces. We have one of David Parker's patent washers, with wringers attached, which is worked by steam, and will wash 160 pieces every fifteen minutes. This will be ready for use in a short time. We have a fine 18-horse power engine, which saws our wood, works the washers, and supplies the Laundry and "Special Diet Rooms" with hot and cold water.

The following provisions were drawn from the Post Commissary, and consumed in this hospital last month:

6,400 lbs. pork.	2,840 lbs. soap.
4,200 lbs. ham.	3,487 lbs. salt.
50,000 lbs. fresh beef.	75 lbs. black pepper.
2,500 lbs. mutton.	1,224 lbs. butter.
126,500 lbs. flour.	50 lbs. lard.
4,500 lbs. corn meal.	2,596 lbs. dried apples.
1,200 lbs. hominy.	904 lbs. dried peaches.
4,600 lbs. beans.	3,000 lbs white fish.
2,100 lbs. peas.	3,750 lbs. mackerel.
2,600 lbs. rice.	408 cans tomatoes.
4,160 lbs. coffee.	200 lbs. cheese.
402 lbs. tea.	100 bbls. raisins.
7,800 lbs. brown sugar.	456 lbs. white sugar.
125 gals. vinegar.	703 lbs. butter crackers.
264 gals. molasses.	811 doz. eggs.
10,621 lbs. candles.	

The total cost of the above provisions, at Government prices, was $20,996 55. In addition to the above there was purchased of private dealers, 6,806¼ gallons of fresh milk, at 30 cents per gallon; 267½ lbs. butter, 44 chickens, 4 bbls. vinegar, 1¾ bushels potatoes, 2 bushels of onions. Total cost of purchases for the month, $2,230.85.

The Medical Purveyor has furnished the hospital, during the month, with 23,250 lbs. of the best quality of ice. The Special Diet Rooms are admirably managed by ladies sent out by the U. S. Christian Commission. We now issue 250 gallons of fresh milk daily.

* * * * * *

A garden of fourteen acres, attached to the hospital, has furnished, up to July 31, the following vegetables: 150 bbls. lettuce; 4 bbls. mustard for greens; 180 bbls. beets

for greens, and 20 bbls. beets for pickles; 3 bbls. potatoes; 1,781 dozen radishes; 1,200 heads cabbages; 318 dozen cucumbers; 53 bushels string beans; 41 bushels green peas; 12 bushels tomatoes; 120 bushels onions. The garden promises further supplies of potatoes, beets, tomatoes, cabbages, carrots, turnips, parsnips, and radishes. The value of the vegetables furnished, at the market price, would be something over $2,000.

I beg further to state, that since February 1, 1864, there has been manufactured in the hospital 1,800 lbs. tallow candles, and 5,000 gallons soap from the tallow and grease saved from the pork and beef used here; there has also been sold for cash, and turned over to the contingent fund from grease and swill, the amount of $500.

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There have been gathered from the hospital garden of Chattanooga, for the use of the troops, up to the 20th of August, 8,934 bushels of onions, tomatoes, beets, &c., and 7,408 dozen of cucumbers, summer squash, corn, early cabbage, &c.

—

August 13.

The days of this past week have been filled with their regular round of duties—only not quite so *regular* to order as one might wish, for sometimes the duties seem to come in crowds.

Somebody has written that "two duties cannot conflict," that of two or more seeming duties, claiming the same time, but one is really such, the others not being duties till their turn comes. I think the writer above alluded to would be sometimes puzzled, if he were engaged in this good work, to determine which of many calls is really the duty. One cannot help ofttimes expressing the wish that, in view of all that needs to be done, he could multiply himself into half-a-dozen. And yet a week's work has but little to show. No one can track it—no one describe it. It is nothing but a few cups of cold water given here and there, every day. And even the name of the donor is not known one time in ten.

Here is a conversation with a sick man, the listening to all his complaints and ailments, and sympathizing with and encouraging him. There are a few words of kind, earnest, spiritual comfort and consolation given with a fervent prayer for the man's recovery. In this corner the visitor listens patiently to a boy just beginning to convalesce, who has not had, in a long time, *the luxury of a good listener*, as he tells how, at "Buzzard's Roost," he was watching his chances, slowly creeping from rock to rock, firing upward as he went, until suddenly he finds himself behind a rock too small to cover him entirely, and he knows that the sharp-shooter before him has discovered it, too, and is watching for the first movement of his head. But he keeps his head down and his legs together until he can't stand it any longer. So he raises his cap above his head the least bit—"*crack*" goes the other fellow's rifle—up he jumps, takes aim, "plugs" the other chap, and is safe behind another rock in a jiffy. So he fights his battles over, until the visitor, having scarcely spoken a word, rises to go, when the poor fellow expresses himself as much obliged for the visit—"it has done a heap of good—I love to hear you talk"—hopes you will come again soon, and with a smile of real pleasure on his face bids you adieu, while you feel that by that little act of, perhaps, some self-denial to yourself, you have administered a tonic to him better than the purest wine.

Then here again is a sick man, very low, with his wife beside him, God bless her! I have few fears for a man whose wife is beside him in hospital. It is, as the husband said to me, "diet, sleep, and sunshine." A curious combination, but I understood it. His food was sweeter, for she handed it to him; his sleep was *rest* now, for she watched over him, and her presence was sunshine all the time. The poor fellow did not know that he was talking "poetry and moonshine,"—but of this I wish there was a good deal more in our hospitals.

By the way, some of our good friends at the North have sent down occasionally checker boards, puzzles, and games. They are of great service to the convalescing patients, who need something cheery. I wish that they could be constantly supplied with some good, light reading, such as Harper's Magazine.

This is the season of fruits and berries. They are of great service to the men *where they can get them*.

I hope that this year again our good friends at Cleveland will not forget their grapes. They did so much good last year.

But I believe that these ladies do not need to be reminded.

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ON THE RED RIVER.

Mr. Carpenter writes to Dr. Newberry, from Salem, Mass., August 20:

As I was not able to report from Red River, I will endeavor now to write the main items of my movements. As I notified you in my previous letter, I suceeded in getting my supplies of sanitary stores on board the Sallie List, and was ready to start up Red River on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 10th, but owing to a storm and very high wind we did not get away until Wednesday morning.

Arrived at the mouth of Red River on Sunday, May 15th, and immediately reported to Major-General Canby, who had arrived the day previous, and was on board the gunboat Black Hawk; was informed by him that it was impossible to get to Alexandria, and that all I could do was to await the turn of events; then went aboard hospital steamer Red Rover, found her full of sick and wounded, and entirely destitute of supplies; furnished them with what I had, and some articles that I did not have, I promised to send at the first opportunity.

Dr. J. H. Bixby, Chief Medical Officer on board, very kindly accompanied me through the boat, and explained the various purposes and arrangements with which it is fitted, and I never was more gratified at the perfect order and neatness with which every thing seems to have been provided and arranged for the comfort and well-being of the sick and suffering on board. The Surgeons and officers in charge are very gentlemanly, and appeared to be kind, humane and talented men.

I supplied the sick on gunboats lying there with their most essentially needed articles, and then went to the transports. I went on board each one as they came out of Red River, administering special relief in all cases where it was practical, and administering to all in need as far as possible.

I reported to Col. Voltura, (Medical Inspector,) the amount of stores that I had brought, and that they would be inadequate to the demand, requesting leave to send to New Orleans for an additional quantity, as I had learned that they had passed down the river, destined for that place. He informed me that he was to send immediately a telegraphic despatch for medical supplies, and would notify the Sanitary Commission also.

I reported to the Adjutant General every day, but could get no permission to pass up the river, as the troops were moving down and he feared we should pass them, and consequently not get our stores to them as soon as to wait where we were. I was very anxious and uneasy, as we were within sound of the guns of the battle all day.

On Thursday I received an invitation to dinner by the officers of the Black Hawk, flagship, and while there, an express came down from Lewisport, requesting sanitary stores to be sent at once. The captain, supposing me to be on board, cast off and proceeded up the river, so that to my great chagrin and annoyance, upon coming out from dinner, I found her out of sight. I went immediately on board the Dunleith, and followed her, arriving at Lewisport but a short time after. Found the agents from New Orleans there, and as they were, of course, better acquainted with the requirements of the different corps, having been on the ground with them, I turned all of the stores over to them. We arrived very opportunely, as their supply was entirely exhausted. Every one was rejoiced to see the stores come in; said "it seemed a perfect god-send almost, they came in just the 'nick of time'—did not see before what they were going to do, or how they were going to get along."

Assisted in the distribution, until they were all given out, and then reported to Gen. A. J. Smith for any volunteer duty that he might have occasion for—was requested by him to remain at the headquarters of the 16th Army Corps, and make myself useful whenever I saw opportunity. Went aboard the Sioux City, and worked all day, assisting the Surgeons, and in caring for the wounded, returning to headquarters at night, when moved down the river to Red River Landing. In the morning ascertained that the wounded coming up the Mississippi were to be transferred to the transport Choteau. I accordingly reported to Dr. Robbins, Surgeon in charge, who re-

quested me to come up with them, and assist them as far as might be.

In the evening the steamer Laurel Hill arrived from New Orleans, bringing a good supply of the most needed articles, and some hospital furniture. They came most acceptably, as I found the Choteau to be only a transport, and entirely unprovided with hospital furniture or appliances, the hospital steamer having been lost, with very nearly all her medical stores, furniture and medicines, consequently all we had to rely on until we reached Natchez, were the stores so fortunately supplied by the Commission.

As the acting steward was sick, Dr. Robbins requested me to assist him in his duties, and in caring for the comfort and well-being of the men as far as possible under the circumstances. The boat was crowded, through her cabins, on deck and on the guards, with wounded men as thickly as they could be laid, leaving hardly stepping room. The first thing to be done was to have them fed, which we succeeded in doing pretty satisfactorily, with the concentrated beef, fish, potatoes, crackers, farina, butter, milk, sugar, tea, coffee, etc., supplied by the Commission, and these were all we could get until we reached Natchez, as all the commissary stores we had were hams and flour, and which there was no opportunity of cooking, as there was but one stove on board, which was fully occupied in cooking for the crew, and what was indispensable for the wounded. The next, to get their bloody, dirty, ragged, and vermin infested clothing off—get them washed, and good clean Sanitary clothing put on, and it would have given any one with a heart in him, the most sincere gratification to witness the change produced in their looks and appearance, their greatly increased cheer and hopefulness—and to have heard their hearty expressions of thankfulness and gratitude.

As there were no cots or mattresses, we supplied their place as well as might be with the bed sacks, blankets, sheets and comforts, and pillows from the Commission; gave them combs, so they were enabled to hunt and capture a certain game which is altogether too abundant in camp life to be agreeable, and could be dispensed with without detriment anywhere; gave them handkerchiefs to wipe off their sweat; a good supply of fans; some reading matter, and occasionally a pipe full of tobacco for a quiet smoke, so that in a few hours the aspect of cheerless, dirty misery on the boat, was very much ameliorated.

I then assisted the surgeons as far as possible, in operating, examining, and dressing wounds, and in giving lemonade, ice-water or stimulants, as needed. The Surgeons, Drs. Robbins and Wood, were very kind, humane men, and laboring incessantly and without many of the most needed appliances, became completely exhausted and worn out, and the nurses being taken from the different regiments in the emergency, were mostly unacquainted with the duties required, making the service very irksome and wearing.

Upon reaching Vicksburg, Dr. Roberts was transferred and Dr. Sanborn placed in charge, who proceeded at once to make requisitions for the medical and hospital stores needed, and as the steamer was to take on wood during the night, I remained on shore and went up to the Sanitary rooms to procure some additional articles of which we were deficient, and a night's sleep and rest, a luxury which I had been deprived of for some time, and through the kind and hospitable attention of Mr. Way and others there, I found myself very much improved and ready for work again.

In the morning, before the supplies were got on board, the hospital steamer N. W. Thomas, in charge of Dr. Harris, fortunately arrived, and it was decided to transfer as many of the worst cases as could be accommodated, to that boat, leaving the rest in hospital at Vicksburg, Drs. Sanborn and Wood accompanying them still, on that boat. Finding Mr. Edgerly (an agent of the U. S. Sanitary Commission from New Orleans) on board, I turned over the sanitary stores to his charge, and at Dr. Harris's urgent request, continued in the same duties I had been filling. The next day Mr. Edgerly was taken sick, and upon our arrival at Memphis, we were obliged to leave him there. I was very sorry, as we were much in need of efficient help, the boat being loaded to her utmost capacity with very badly wounded men.

They required constant attention, and being but illy supplied with nurses, made it very laborious and exhausting, for it was impossible to rest with men in such condition.

It was very pleasant and gratifying to see their countenances brighten and the look of languor and hopelessness disappear for a time as one carried them great pailsful of delicious ice cold lemonade or milk punches, or hot coffee, as they required, and to hear their expressions of thankfulness and gratitude. Great strong men, or those who were so, previous to their sufferings, would cry like children at some unwonted attention or kindness. Such expressions as "God bless the Sanitary;" "this is a bully good thing, isn't it?" "ain't this great, boys?" "what should we have done if it hadn't been for the Sanitary?" "thank God for the help which always hits us in the right time?" "Hurrah for the Sanitary Commission," &c., &c., were constantly heard on all sides.

One poor fellow from Iowa, suffering from an amputated leg and broken thigh, said "he lived away back, and had never heard much about the Sanitary Commission; did not know much about what it meant, (but, with tears in his eyes,) I've seen and felt what it means now." Another, an officer, from Illinois, said: "I've said and always thought the Sanitary Commission was a *humbug*, but if I ever say or think that again, it will be when I am out of my senses." Another, wounded by a shot through the lungs, said: "I always told the folks at home the Sanitary Commission did'nt amount to anything, and did not do us any good, for we never got anything from it, but now I know the reason, it is because I was not in a situation to receive it, and did not need it; but if it had not been for the Sanitary Commission I would not now be alive to tell it." Another with an arm amputated at the shoulder, said: "It is almost worth being wounded to know how much they think of and are trying to do for us at home." Another one, who was shot through the body, after being washed, fed, getting on clean clothes, and a pipe full of tobacco to smoke, said: "I'm all right now, and when I get this *hole* growed up I'll pitch in and give them fits again."

I might multiply instances indefinitely, but these are enough to show the feeling manifested. How much good a few cheering, hopeful words would do, could be seen in their brightened eyes and happy countenances at any time, and to sit down and talk awhile with them about home, friends, and the hopes of the future, relieved very much the dragging, weary hours of suffering. Reading matter was also in great request and very useful.

I remained on duty, although quite sick myself, until I saw the last one comfortably on his cot in the hospital at Jefferson Barracks, and then was obliged to succumb. Of my being left in hospital at St. Louis, and subsequent movements, I have advised you in previous letters.

I do not intend this as a report, which should have been forwarded immediately upon my return, but I was unable to do so, but merely to give you a brief summary of my doings from my last report.

Enclosed please find list of names of those who died on the passage. The effects of Thomas Harbison, private Co. H, 24th Indiana, which were turned over to me, I left with Mr. Way, at Memphis, to be forwarded to his friends. The facts in each case for the use of Hospital Directory, are stated as far as practicable, or as they could be ascertained.

I am still at Salem, Mass., and I think am deriving great benefit from a change of scene, the invigorating salt breeze, sea bathing, rest, &c., and the medical treatment I am taking, I hope, will soon fit me for duty again as usual.

VALUE OF THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

Annexed is an extract from a letter of H. H. Beebe, Chief Clerk of the Hospital Directory, which illustrates its value as the agency where information is gathered, which is not elsewhere secured:

The foreign letter which you handed me last evening was an inquiry for information, from John Phillips, of South Wales, Great Britain, regarding Lieut. William B. Phillips, Adjutant of the 2d Pennsylvania Prov. Artillery. A great deal of anxiety was expressed, as he had not been heard from since the 21st of June. It gives me pleasure to state that I was enabled to reply to this letter at once, deriving my information from a very unusual channel, taking

all the coincidences into consideration; and the circumstances being so peculiar, the information so reliable, and the usefulness of the Hospital Directory so well proven, I desire to relate the matter to you, that you may enjoy the pleasure also of seeing "the good we do."

I was enabled to write Mr. Phillips that in the assault on Petersburg, Va., July 30th, Adjutant William B. Phillips, of 2d Pennsylvania Prov. Artillery, was taken prisoner, in company with Captains Norris and Millard, and Lieut. Kellow, of the same regiment.

Mrs. Norris had inquired at this office on three or four different occasions for information of her husband, but we could give her none. She came here only three or four days since and stated that she had received a letter from her husband, who was a prisoner of war at Petersburg, Va., and well. The letter came by flag-of-truce. It mentioned the other officers alluded to, and Mrs. N. had brought the letter here to ask me to record this information on our books, they having been reported as *killed.* The record was taken, and this inquiry received last night was answered from that record. I should also add that the same Adjutant Phillips was inquired for in a letter received from an intelligent lady at Hyde Park, Pa., only yesterday, and immediately answered.

A RAINY DAY IN CAMP.

[The following lines are from the pen of the late Mrs. Robert S. Howland, and have been already widely circulated through other channels, but as we have already published most of her other poems, we think the appearance of this also will be welcome to most readers of the Bulletin.]

It's a cheerless, lonesome evening,
When the soaking, sodden ground
Will not echo to the footfall
Of the sentinel's dull round.

God's blue star-spangled banner
To-night is not unfurled;
Surely *He* has not deserted
This weary, warring world.

I peer into the darkness,
And the crowding fancies come;
The night wind, blowing northward,
Carries all my heart toward home.

For I listed in this army
Not exactly to my mind;
But my country called for helpers,
And I couldn't stay behind.

So, I've had a sight of drilling,
And have roughed it many ways,
And Death has nearly had me;
Yet I think the service pays.

It's a blessed sort of feeling—
Whether you live or die—
You helped your country in her need,
And fought right loyally.

But I can't help thinking sometimes,
When a wet day's leisure comes,
And I hear the old home voices
Talking louder than the drums—

And the far familiar faces
Peep in at my tent door,
And the little children's footsteps
Go pit-pat on the floor—

I can't help thinking, somehow,
Of all the parson reads
About that other soldier life
Which every true man leads.

And wife, soft-hearted creature,
Seems a-saying in my ear,
"I'd rather have you in *those* ranks
Than to see you brigadier."

I call myself a brave one,
But in my heart I lie!
For my country, and her honor,
I am fiercely free to die;

But when the Lord, who bought me,
Asks for my service here,
To "fight the good fight" faithfully,
I'm skulking in the rear.

And yet I know this Captain
All love and care to be:
He would never get impatient
With a raw recruit like me.

And I know he'd not forget me;
When the day of peace appears,
I should share with him the victory
Of all his volunteers.

And it's kind of cheerful, thinking,
Beside the dull tent-fire,
About that big promotion,
When he says, "Come up higher."

And though it's dismal—rainy—
Even now, with thoughts of him,
Camp life looks extra cheery,
And death a deal less grim.

For I seem to see him waiting,
Where a gathered heaven greets
A great, victorious army,
Marching up the golden streets.

And I hear him read the roll-call,
And my heart is all a-flame,
When the dear, recording angel
Writes down my happy name!

But my fire is dead white ashes,
And the tent is chilling cold,
And I'm playing *vin the battle,*
When I've never been enrolled!

WORDS OF CHEER.

We take the following extract from a letter recently received by the Woman's Central Association of Relief, dated Conway, Mass., August 2, 1864:

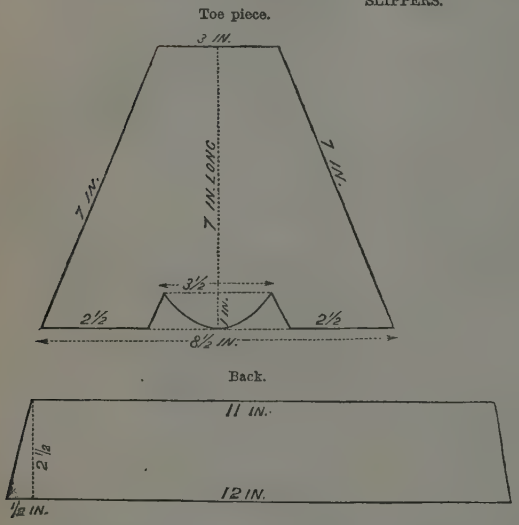
"In a former barrel some of our ladies wrote notes and put them into the socks, etc. Many have received answers. This has contributed much to the interest here in our armies. Some letters were from the hospitals, some from the navy, some from the field, near Petersburg, and in nearly all, a 'God bless the Sanitary Commission.' One letter, in which our people were greatly interested, was from an Assistant Surgeon of the 25th New York Cavalry.

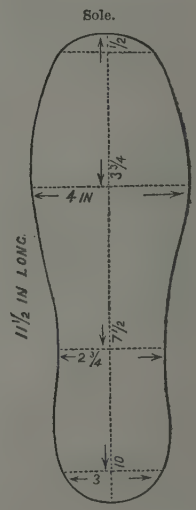
"In this barrel is a pair of socks knit by a lady who is ninety-seven years old on the 24th of this month. She is ready and anxious to do all she can.

"We have just had a number of pieces of wool given us, which our Society will color, spin and knit for the soldiers. They make much better socks than yarn we purchase."

PATTERNS FOR HOSPITAL CLOTHING.—No. 3.

SLIPPERS.





REQUIRED FOR A PAIR OF SLIPPERS.

5½ yards common woolen carpet binding.
2½ knots strong linen thread.

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING SLIPPERS.

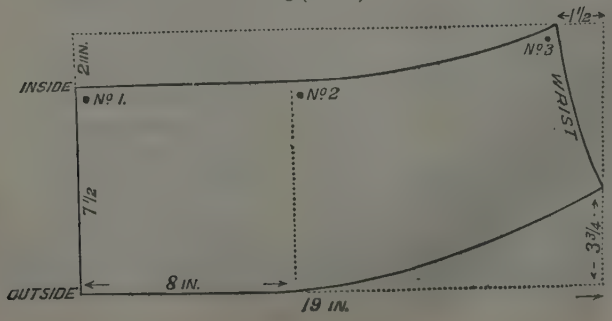
Slippers should be made of carpeting or stout woolen cloth and lined with cotton or cotton flannel.

Each part should be bound and the three parts sewed together by the binding.

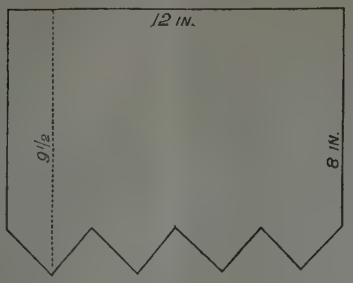
A stiff sole of pasteboard or sole leather should be inserted between the lining and outside.

ARM SLING.

Sling (half of.)



RATION BAG.



DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING SLINGS.

Slings may be made of calico or any other strong material.

The two halves should be sewed together only on the outer side and the edges hemmed.

Strings should be placed on both halves, as per dots in diagram. (Six strings.)

Those at No. 1 are of unequal length, one being 27 inches long, the other 11 inches. The four other strings are 27 inches long.

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING RATION BAGS.

Ration Bags should be made of enamelled cloth. The four points should be sewed together so as to form a flat bottom and the side sewed up to make it into a bag. The top should be bound with cotton and tape strings run in.

THE SANITARY MOVEMENT IN ITALY.

THE NEUTRALITY OF THE WOUNDED IN TIME OF WAR.

The following paper on this important subject, was read at the meeting of the Pontanian Academy on the 27th of December, 1863, by Dr. Palasciano, Resident Member:

GENTLEMEN—Too memorable for us all was the assembly of the 20th of January, 1861, at which the Academy resolved to celebrate the events which gained for us our political regeneration, for me to suppose that the proposition I had the honor of making can be effaced from your heart. I mean that we should undertake to promote the amelioration of the fate of the wounded in battle, and to favor and diffuse the tendency of saving them from mutilation and hastening their recovery, certain that we could not offer a more acceptable homage to the King and Gen. Garibaldi, our liberator.

You did not disdain accepting my offer of a prize for a competition on the treatment of gunshot wounds, and vied with each other in exertions to gain this aim as soon as possible.

But the want of a work which could deserve the prize, the willingness with which the medical profession answered our appeal, the number and importance of the memoirs which reached us within the very limited time conceded to us, and the interviews which the professors of natural sciences were obliged to grant to each individually, showed that this theme had revealed one of the most urgent requisites of our era, a prevision very lately and unfortunately verified in the person of our wounded liberator himself.

It was then, at the meeting of the 28th April, 1861, that on proposing a new competition on the same subject, accompanied by explanations and facilitations, I arrived at this conclusion—that the means proper for preventing mutilation, and saving the limbs broken by fire-arms, are not so entirely in the power of the surgeon as they are in that of his science; and by the history of surgery, and the statistics of gunshot wounds, I proved clearly, that when very few fire-arms were employed, and with no precision, that when a great quantity of baggage was required, and the marches were slow, the necessity of amputation was less required in the armies.

Afterwards the perfection of arms, the additional number of troops, generated impetuosity, rashness, and carelessness, and increased beyond measure the cases of amputations and deaths; whilst where there is method and discipline amputations may not only be nearly abolished, but the Surgeon-General Bilguer, in a remarkable work published by him at Berlin in 1761, reckoned 6,618 wounded in various ways, who were treated without amputation, and from that number 653 died, 213 invalided, 193 veterans, and 5,557 were cured. Since the invention of ambulanze volanti, (flying ambulances,) in the early part of the present century, the greatest number of amputated who died has been 51 per cent. In the naval engagements of Aboukir, Brest, New Orleans, and Navarino, the deaths after amputation never exceeded 24 per cent.; whereas, in the wars of late years, in the Crimea and in Italy, the number of deaths among the amputated reached as far as 77 per cent.

On examining all the causes of the enormous disparity of the results obtained by the surgeons of the above epochs, I found the two following singularly prevalent: the much longer and more rapid mode of conveyance to which the wounded were subjected during the comparatively short recent wars, and the crowded state in the ambulances and hospitals, on account of the more powerful engines of destruction which are now used. From this I thought, that if it should be desirable to put a limit to the great proportion of deaths succeeding amputations, it will be necessary to operate and dress the wounds of the sufferers in the greatest proximity to the battle-field itself, in villages, country houses, barracks, hovels, and other like places of shelter, and be able to leave them there till the beginning of the period of cicatrization. If this is not done, I said, it is to be feared that the progress of the exterminating power of war will increase so far, that for the sick and wounded soldier no other remedy will be found than that which inflexible logic was forced to demand for the plague-stricken at Giaffa. It appeared impossible and exaggerated, yet we have heard this year that in unfortunate Poland the wounded are buried alive in one common grave with

the dead! Horrid atrocity, to which I have no reason to give faith.

Therefore, the necessity of perfect quietude, pure air, and more prompt assistance to the wounded for the amelioration of their state being acknowledged, I entreated every government to come to the aid of medical science, which alone cannot prevent the transfer of the wounded, nor provide the means required for their being assisted near the battle-field. It would be necessary, I stated, that the contending powers in their declaration of war should reciprocally acknowledge the principle of "neutrality of the soldiers severely wounded or sick, during the whole time of their cure," and that they should respectively adopt the "unlimited increase of the medical staff during the whole time of the war."

This, my first discourse "On the neutrality of the wounded in time of war," was sent to Paris by the French chargé d'affaires at Naples, on the same day of its reading, and no doubt our Government received it at the same time as the academical report to the Minister of Public Instruction. But whilst Governments meditate, or at least one must think so, public opinion does not remain inactive. On the 10th of June, 1861, Arrault published in Paris, a "Notizia industriale sul perfezionamento delle Ambulanze Volanti,"* by which he claimed the inviolability of military doctors, assistants, and "ambulanze." To these demands the eloquent Borie gave his support, by an article in the *Siècle* of the 1st of August, 1861.

For this reason, in my second discourse, of December the 29th, 1861, on the same subject, in which I informed you of other people's opinion, and discussed the measures that appeared to me erroneous or imperfect, I gave you ampler explanations of my idea on the neutrality of the wounded, and particularly sought the means of effectuating it.

At that period an international congress seemed imminent, on account of the Anglo-American version of the affair of the St. Jacinto, which was precisely to have had for its object the determination of the rights and obligations of neutrals during the war, and I thought that if the principle of neutrality of the wounded in battle should be adopted, either by means of a stipulation in a congress, or by a mutual private agreement between the contending powers in the act of the intimation of war, its effectuation would be most easily achieved.

For this, it would be sufficient that the contending armies should bind themselves—1st. To make a reciprocal restitution of all the wounded prisoners immediately after each battle. 2. That the wounds should be dressed on the battle-field itself, by the personal medical staff of each party, when the patient could not well undergo an immediate removal with impunity. 3. That the medical staff in proportion to the number of wounded men left for treatment on the enemy's territory, should be allowed to pass with a safe conduct and escort, remain as long as necessary, and afterwards should be given up during an armistice to the outposts or frontiers of the enemy. 4. That all the food, lodging, and medicaments required on the territory of the enemy should be provided by the commissariat of the place, against a receipt from the acting surgeon, to be repaid after the war. 5. That from besieged places, besides the same reciprocal surrender of the wounded, the besieged ought to be allowed to send forth their own wounded, provided a neutral State should consent to receive them, or should the besiegers generously offer them an asylum.

Now that the potentates are to assemble "sans système préconçu, sans ambition exclusive, animés par la seule pensée d'établir un ordre de choses fondé désormais sur l'intérêt bien compris des souverains et des peuples," as the Emperor Napoleon said on the 5th of November, what greater interest can a citizen feel than in the act of mercy which causes him to sacrifice himself for the welfare of his fellowmen? However, together with the "Manual of Military Surgery," published and diffused by you after the above-mentioned concourse, in January, 1862, appeared the two discourses on the neutrality of the wounded, which were reproduced about the same period in the "Imparziale of Florence," and whilst medical science received such an impulse that in less than two years we now possess, besides the above manual, "Cenni sulla cura delle ferite d'armi da fuoco del Baroffio," (Torino, 1862,) the work of de Sanctis, which has been justly confuted and disproved in your report, "La Guida Teorica Pratica del Medico Militare in Campagna, del Cortese," (Torino, 1862,) and "Le Traité de Chirurgie d'Armée," de Legouest, (Paris, 1863,) the idea respecting the neutrality of the wounded, and of an unlimited addition to the medical staff in time of war having become known in Geneva, as also the portion of the prize offered to Appia, it gained immense favor in that city. Its stanchest upholder and propagator, Mr. Henry Dunant, an eye-witness of the sanguinary episodes of the battle of Solferino, during which he volunteered his services as assistant on the wounded, has availed himself of the narration of this battle to interest public opinion, the press, and the Society of Public Utility in Switzerland in favor of the amelioration of the state of the wounded, and especially of founding relieving committees for sending volunteer assistants on the field of battle, such as those who followed the army of our liberator in 1860, Although he had not the right of priority which is attributed to him by Sauvestre, in the *Opinione Nazionale* of the 10th of November, 1863, because his work, "Un Souvenir de Solferino," was printed at Geneva in 1862; and a note, (page 61,) contains the declaration that these records were collected more than three years after having taken place.*

Nevertheless, it is undeniable that the progress made by our humanitarian ideas is in part due to his exertions. A commission appointed by the Genevese Society of Public Utility, and composed of General Dufour, M. Moynier, Drs. Maunoir and Appia, with Dunant, as Secretary, was charged with presenting to the International Congress of Statistics, assembled at Berlin, in September last, a report on the formation of permanent committees of relief for the

* Industrial notes on the perfection of ambulances.

* Comme ce n'est qu'apres plus de trois ans que je me suis décide à rassembler des souvenirs pénibles que je n'avais pas eu l'intention de livrer a l'impression, &c.

wounded soldiers in time of war. This proposition was also supported by the Vaudois Society of Public Utility, by the Neufchatel Society for the Progress of Social Sciences, and the Congress of Berlin decreed that an international conference should take place at Geneva, on the 26th of October, in order to inquire into the means of supplying the deficiency of the sanitary service of marching armies. This conference was presided over by Gen Dufour, and represented by many nations, who sent their delegates, viz :—Austria, Dr. Unger, Chief Medical Officer of the Army; Baden, Dr. Steiner, Chief Medical Officer; Bavaria, Dr. Dampierre, Chief Medical Officer of the Royal Artillery; Spain, Major Landa, Staff Surgeon, Dr. Préval, of the Imperial Guard, and Dr. Boudier, Chief Medical Man; England, Dr. Rutherford, Inspector-General of the Hospitals, and Mackenzie, Consul at Geneva; Hanover, Oelker; Hesse, Brodbrick, Staff Surgeon; Italy, G. Campello, Consul at Geneva; the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Prince Henry of Reuss, Delegate of Prince Charles of Prussia, himself Grand Master of the Order; the Low Countries, Busting, Staff Surgeon of the Grenadiers and Chasseur of the Guards, and Captain Van de Velde, ex-Officer of Marine; Prussia, Dr. Hoxscalle, M.D., Councillor of Medical Staff, and Dr. Loeffler, Court Physician; Russia, Captain Kireiew, Field Adjutant of the Grand Duke Constantine, and Iosakoff, Librarian to the Grand Duchess Eleanor Paolana; Saxony, Gunther, Head Physician of the Army; Sweden, Dr. Henry Skoeldberg, Inspector of the Medical Staff, and Dr. Edling; Wurtemburg, Drs. Hahn and Wagner; Switzerland, Dr. Lehman, Head of the Medical Staff of the Federal Army, and Dr. Brierè, of the Medical Staff of Division.

The conference assembled during four consecutive days, and issued the following resolutions: 1. That in every country a committee should be formed for the purpose of contributing by all possible means, to the medical service of the troops in time of war. The committee shall form itself in whatever way it shall think most useful and convenient. 2. Each committee must put itself in relation with the government it belongs to, so that any offer of service may be acceptable when necessary. 3. Unlimited sections can form themselves to aid the committee to which belongs the general direction. 4. In time of peace the committees and sections shall occupy themselves in seeking the means of becoming really useful in time of war, and especially in preparing material support of every species, and endeavoring to form and qualify volunteer assistants. 5. In case of war the committees of the hostile nations shall, to the extent of their means, provide succors for their respective army, and especially qualify and practice the volunteer assistants, and with the concurrence of the military authorities, settle the locality to receive the wounded. They may solicit the concourse of the committees belonging to neutral nations. 6. At the request or acquiescence of military authority, the committees can send the volunteer assistants under the direction of the military chiefs, to the seat of war. 7. The volunteer assistants destined to follow armies must be furnished with every provision required for their maintenance by their respective committees. 8. They are to wear in every country, as a distinctive sign of uniform, a white leather cuff, with a red cross. 9. The committees and sections of different countries may meet in international congresses, to communicate to each other their experience, and concert on the resolutions to be taken for the interest of the cause. 10. The exchange of communications between the committees of different nations is to be accomplished provisionally by the medium of the committee of Geneva.

Independently of the above resolutions, the conference issued the following votes:—A. That the government should grant their chief protection to the relieving committees which are being formed, and facilitate as far as possible the accomplishment of their intentions. B. That the neutralization be proclaimed in time of war by the hostile nations respecting "le ambulanze" and hospitals, and that it be also granted in the most distinct manner to the staff of medical officers, to the volunteer assistants, to the inhabitants of the country who may go to succor the wounded, as well as to the wounded themselves. C. That a distinctive device be allowed to the medical staff of every army, or at least to those of the army they belong to, and that a particular identical flag should be adopted in every country for the ambulances and hospitals.

This is neither the time nor place wherein to discuss the propriety of the determination taken by the committee of Geneva, and far less its application to permanent armies. It is sufficient for us that the international conference meeting at Geneva should have adopted our principle of neutrality in favor of the wounded in battle, and the unlimited increase of the medical staff in time of war.

That the neutrality should be proclaimed by the hostile parties in time of war, rather than by a congress such as that of Paris, was unimportant to us; that during war there should be a penury of medical men, rather than of volunteer assistants, is a subject not worth investigating, provided no condition or limit is put to the increase of the medical staff.

I do not know, if the convocated congress of Paris will take place, if in what concerns the welfare of the people will be comprised the neutrality of the wounded in battle, nor if Italy, who has the priority of the idea, will have ministers who aspire at the honor of being initiated in so humanitarian a principle. But whatever may result from the above suppositions, we shall never cease to require the greatest perseverance in the attainment of our aim, and to co-operate, as far as we possibly can, and with our utmost exertions, to secure the amelioration of the position of the wounded in battle.

Most of the therapeutic principles which predominate in the "Manuale di Chirurgia Militare" published by you, and which tend to spare the mutilation and life of the wounded, have been adopted by two eminent writers, Legouest and Cortese, whose works appeared since the publication of your "Manual."

Nevertheless, Legouest acknowledges that in the Crimea gunshot fractures of the thigh, treated with the preservation of that limb, were five times more successfully cured than those whose thigh was amputated on account of severe wounds ("lesione traumatica") in the lower

limb or leg, and when he treats of the therapeutic principle, he concludes by saying—"dans de bonnes conditions, c'est à dire, dans les cas de fractures simples, sans perte de substance ossense étendue, lorsque le blessé ne doit pas être transporté, et qu'il est placé dans un lieu salubre et pourvu de toutes les ressources matérielles et chirurgicales, l'amputation peut être écartée; dans les conditions opposées, l'amputation doit être pratiquée." French medical men know now that for want of material and surgical resources, and from the necessity of removing the wounded, they are forced, with their own hands, to sacrifice one quarter at least of their amputated of the thigh. Some day they may refuse to lend themselves to so cruel a necessity, and claim or enforce conditions to avoid it.

Dr. Cortese, who professes therapeutic principles of military surgery far more conservative than Legouest's, issues the following sentence: "For the lower limbs, besides the length of time required for the operation of resection, (risegamento,) a quiet position is so necessary that it is incompatible with a forcible removal. If the improvements that are to be introduced in the science of surgery can be obtained so far as to free it from the obstacles which are an impediment to the surgical operations in the ambulance, it is evident that resections will soon have the preference over amputations. The preservation of the limb by the hoped for method has not had hitherto the happy results which in my opinion will be obtained more amply hereafter. Many other impediments have hitherto prevented its beneficial influence besides those which concern conservative operations. Of these may be enumerated the following:—1. The excessive accumulation of wounded in the hospital wards, by which the air becomes tainted and generates putrefaction. Among the many human infirmities, none require more imperiously that the air should be pure, and often renovated, than those in rooms where a great number of wounds of that kind require long time for suppuration. After a sanguinary war, and still more, during a long contested battle, it is difficult to find sufficient space to supply these deficiences. 2. The want of well-prepared apparatuses to insure the perfect steadiness of the limb, even when undergoing a daily dressing. 3. The deficiency of intelligent and constant surgical assistants, who, among the numerous duties required of them, could devote to each peculiar case the diligent and constant medications it may require."

The learned Signor Cortese is inspector of health in the Italian army, and his fearful revelations will certainly not have been published without his having often appealed in vain to obtain from our government the necessary requisites.

It is now the duty of the Italian people to take note of these revelations, and should war break out some further sacrifices must be made, and not allow their defenders to be mutilated for want of a few livres, the cost of a set of well-prepared apparatuses, and persons able to the use of them. As to medical men, if in the heart of many there still remains any doubt or uncertainty which the aphorisms of our manual are intended to remove respecting the treatment of gunshot wounds, it will be easier to come to an understanding on the subject by a serious and peaceful discussion when we are better prepared for the day of trial.

STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE MEETING OF THE 6TH MARCH, 1864.

In addition to my discourse on the 13th of December "Il Congresso e l'Italia," respecting the neutrality of the wounded in time of war, I have the honor of submitting to you the following remarks, which will show you the rapid progress obtained by the humanitarian principle of the neutrality of the wounded soldiers, which you so warmly approved of in this hall the first day it was proclaimed, 28th of April, 1861. The Society of Public Utility in Geneva, after the international congress of which I informed you, sent to all the European states an official circular containing the following inquiries:

1. Is government disposed to grant its high protection to the committee of relief for the wounded which is being formed in its own country, in consequence of the resolutions of the conference of Geneva, and to promote as far as possible the fulfilment of its mission? 2. Would government adhere to an international convention, having for its aims (A) the neutrality in time of war of the "ambulanze" and military hospitals of the medical staff, of the volunteer assistants presented by the committee of relief of the inhabitants of the place who might be going to succor the wounded, and of the military wounded themselves? (B) The adoption of an uniform or a distinctive sign common to the staff belonging to the sanitary service, and of a particular flag for the "ambulanze" and hospitals? Should this last proposition be accepted, would there be any objection to the adopting for all the leather cuff and the white flag with a red cross? Many governments have already answered officially. At the entreaties of Dr. Lehmann, the Swiss Federal Council authorized the military department to meet the wishes above mentioned, on condition that the states on the confines of Switzerland would adhere likewise to the international convention.

Then followed the adhesions of Wurtemburg, of Russia, France, and Denmark. In Stockholm, under the superintendence of Dr. Hahn, an important society has been instituted, with an auxiliary diramation of ladies belonging to the high nobility of Wurtemberg, proclamations and appeals have been issued all over the country.

In Prussia, a large central committee has been formed by the Prince Henry XIII., of Reuss, and by the private counsellor Housselle, both deputies of Prussia to the Congress of Geneva. In this committee, next to Prince Radziwill, Count Arnim, Count Stolberg-Verniger-ode, Chancellor of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, stand the librarian Wagner, the Israelite banker Mendelssohn, the protestant and catholic clergymen. . . . . In Prussia only they have not been very diligent in constituting such a committee, because the minister of Roon, on account of the insufficiency of Prussian deaconesses, has been obliged to have recourse to the superior in chief of the sisterhood of St. Carlo, at Nancy (Meurthe,) and request

her to send to Schleswig sisters disposed to attend on the Prussian catholic sick and wounded, and directly eighteen sisters started from Treves for the seat of war. King William, of Prussia, has expressed many times his strong sympathy for this pious undertaking, to which he has granted his most powerful protection. He professes the principle of neutrality for the wounded, and has no doubt it will be generally admitted.

In France, the army warmly approves the principle of neutrality, and the Emperor Napoleon wrote to Dunant to assure him of his wish to contribute to this mission by promoting the formation of the French committee. He declares publicly his approval of the object of the conference, and of the efforts made to insure its success; allows his sympathies to be made known, and orders the Minister of War to authorize some of the chief officers to take part in the committee instituted in Paris by Dunant.

By a despatch from Copenhagen, dated the 28th January, 1864, the Minister of War of Denmark has informed the committee of Geneva of the official adhesion of his country to the votes of the conference. In Spain, the Prince D. Sebastian has undertaken to sustain with vigor the neutrality and the improvement of the condition of the wounded. In Italy (says the *Journal of Geneva* of the 20th February, 1864,) a patriotic appeal in favor of the international society has been largely diffused, by the care of Signor Guido Corsini, secretary of the Dantescan commission; a committee has been instituted in Florence, and the eldest son of the king, Prince Umberto, has declared that he would promote and protect all societies formed in this country towards this pious work.

You know that in Italy more than this has been done, and the press of Geneva is not ignorant of it, for in its journal of the 26th December, 1863, it claims for Naples the priority of the idea of the neutrality of the wounded, which it says it enunciated in 1861, "dans une brochure connue à Génève, puis qu'elle avait donné lieu à un concours, où des Genevois avaient concouru."

Justice and logic, after this, ought to have claimed, as a symbol of the neutrality, a white cross on a red ground, instead of a red cross on a white ground. But this must be decided by our governing powers, and we have no right to judge them before the work is begun. It is undeniable, however, that the activity of Dunant, and of the committee of Geneva, in their efforts to spread the adopted principle, deserve great praise, and we think that the periodical press, particularly the *Giornale di Ginevra*, deserves some likewise; which, to convince the unbelievers of the possibility of effectuating the principle of the neutrality of the wounded, recalls the following historical facts:

In 1743, in the war of the succession of Austria, Marshal de Noailles, commanding the French army, concluded a treaty on this subject, in Aschaffenbourg, with Count Stair, commander of the English army, and these generals engaged reciprocally to respect and protect the hospitals, which was scrupulously done during the war. On the 6th of February, 1759, at Ecluse, in Flanders, a similar treaty, containing the same identical details, was entered into by the Marquis du Barrail for the King of France, and Sir Henry Seymour Conway for the King of England.

The treaty of the 7th of September, 1769, between Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, and France, which was punctually adhered to on both sides, entailed the duty of taking great care of the sick and wounded, and not to take prisoners either clergymen, doctors, surgeons, apothecaries, nurses, assistants, or any other party attached to hospital service.

In 1800, General Moreau, commander of the French army, proposed a similar treaty to the Austrian general, Kray, who refused to accept it, and thus during sixty-four years, through the interference of the upholders of divine right, justice and humanity has been silenced, while we think ourselves on the road of progress and civilization.

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☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

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OF THE PUREST QUALITY,

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Such as are extensively used in the

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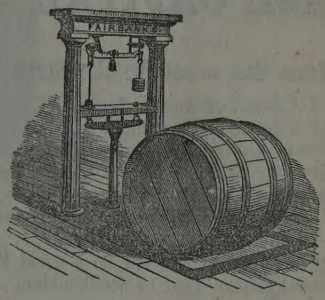

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☞ *Descriptive Circulars furnished or mailed to any address, on application to either of the above.*

OFFICE OF THE

Columbian (Marine) Insurance COMPANY,

CORNER OF WALL AND NASSAU STREETS.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - $1,000,000.

From Statement for the Sixth Fiscal Year, ending December 31, 1863.

Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

LOSSES PAID IN GOLD upon Risks on which the Premium is paid in like Currency.

DEALERS WITH THIS COMPANY will be allowed the option (to be signified at the time of application for insurance) of receiving in lieu of scrip, at the end of each year, RETURNS IN CASH, (guaranteed by certificate) of premiums paid and earned during the year, whether loss accrues or not, upon all new risks under the NEW YORK FORM OF POLICY, as follows:

1st. Upon all VOYAGE Risks upon CARGO, a return of TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.

2d. Upon VOYAGE Risks upon FREIGHT, a return of TWENTY PER CENT.

3d. Upon TIME Risks upon FREIGHT, and upon VOYAGE and TIME Risks upon HULLS, a return of TEN PER CENT.

Such privilege, however, being confined to persons and firms, the aggregate of whose premiums upon such policies earned and paid during the year, shall amount to the sum of one hundred dollars.

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WM. M. WHITNEY 2d Vice-President and Secretary.